

Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Relay Conclusion
Tuesday, May 22, 2012
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The 25th Anniversary Relay will conclude in Vancouver on Day 272 of its journey across Canada.
- After 12,000 kms, 7,000 Medal Bearers, 600 communities and 273 days travelling across the country, this will be a large-scale event celebrating the end of the 25th Anniversary Relay.
- Rick will wheel with all participants in the 25th Anniversary Relay on the final day. The Relay will conclude its nine-month journey 25 years to the date, and at the same location where Rick Hansen finished his Man In Motion World Tour.

Audience: who are they?

- Rick Hansen
- Alice Wong – Minister of State for Seniors
- Gregor Robertson – Mayor, Vancouver
- John Betts and George Cohon – McDonald's restaurants
- Amanda Magyar – Final medal bearer
- Jordan McPhee and Jamie Levchuk - MCs

Key Messages

- Rick Hansen is legendary, not only in this province, but around the world. He is a Canadian hero.
- So much has happened in spinal cord research in the last 25 years. Rick has helped raise over \$252 million.
- Congratulations to Rick – B.C.'s very own Man In Motion – and the 7,000 Difference Makers who have carried Rick Hansen's 25th Anniversary Medal across Canada.

Rick Hansen 25th anniversary relay

Check against delivery

It's hard to find heroes these days, but Rick Hansen is a true Canadian hero.

The 25th anniversary cross-Canada relay celebrating the original Man in Motion World Tour ends here today, at the very place the original tour ended 25 years ago.

Twenty-five years ago, the Man in Motion tour raised \$26 million for spinal cord research while showing the world what's possible when you believe in yourself.

Today, 25 years to the day after he finished his Man In Motion tour, Rick has finished a 9-month relay across Canada with 7,000 Difference Makers.

I bet all those difference makers were inspired by Rick, his passion and his work.

And Rick is a very charismatic and persuasive guy! He's inspired thousands around the world to get on board for another world tour.

Only a hero could do this, not once, but twice.

So much has happened in spinal cord research in the last 25 years.

Rick used the \$26 million raised during the Man in Motion Tour to raise more than \$252 million in investments towards spinal cord research, and other projects to make life better for spinal cord injury sufferers.

And the province of British Columbia is proud to be part of that effort.

By working in partnership with the Rick Hansen School Program to make B.C. schools more accessible and more inclusive...

Providing funding support for the construction of the Blusson Spinal Cord Centre, a world class research centre at Vancouver General Hospital...

As well as funding the BC Leadership Chair in Spinal Cord Research at the Rick Hansen Institute of BC.

B.C. is proud to contribute to some of the most important discoveries in the field of spinal cord injuries, and leads the nation in research, treatment and services.

So many people have been inspired by Rick's goals make a difference in their own communities and in the lives of others.

Congratulations to Rick – B.C.'s very own Man In Motion – and the 7,000 Difference Makers who have carried Rick Hansen's 25th Anniversary Medal across Canada.

So, after 12,000 kilometres, 7,000 medal bearers, 600 communities across this great country and 272 travelling days, I'm proud to welcome home a legend and a great British Columbian.

Welcome back, Rick!

- END -

**Virgin Atlantic Airways Inaugural Flight
Thursday, May 24, 2012**

Premier to speak 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Virgin Atlantic Airways is holding a welcome event and press conference at the Vancouver International Airport on Thursday May 24 to celebrate the inaugural flight of their new London-Heathrow to Vancouver service.
- Sir Richard Branson and YVR are hosting the event.

Audience: who are they?

- Sir Richard Branson, Chairman – Virgin Group
- Steve Ridgeway, CEO of Virgin Atlantic Airways (TBC)
- Larry Berg, President and CEO, Vancouver International Airport
- Virgin Atlantic are bringing other VIP guests (names TBC)

Key Messages

- **Welcome Virgin Atlantic Airways to B.C.**
- **This new route will give more choice for travel between B.C. and the U.K. and allow visitors to take advantage of all the beauty and excitement B.C. has to offer.**
- **This new service will create jobs for B.C. families and contribute to our economy.**

Check against delivery

It's an honour to be here today to celebrate the inaugural Virgin Atlantic Airways flight from Heathrow to Vancouver.

I want to welcome Virgin Atlantic to British Columbia, and tell you how happy we are to see that plane on our tarmac here at YVR. Thank you for choosing Vancouver for this new service!

We've been looking forward to this day since Virgin announced this route last November.

These 960 seats between the U.K. and Vancouver, every week from May until October, mean a lot to the B.C. economy – about \$10 million, as a matter of fact.

Up to 40,000 passengers will use this service, and that will create about 35 new jobs here at YVR.

I know the people in our tourism ministry are very keen to continue to promote travel to our province from the U.K. and this route will help a lot.

Our province has it all - from rainforests to vibrant cities to the sweeping ocean vistas and proud First Nations traditions.

You can tour wine country, ski on a glacier, surf our wild west coast or go bear-watching.

This new Virgin Atlantic route gives the people of the U.K. more choice to come and discover B.C., and gives British Columbians the opportunity to enjoy all that the U.K. has to offer, especially this exciting summer of the Queen's jubilee and the Olympics.

The new route to Heathrow will make travel between Vancouver and the U.K. easier than ever throughout the summer.

We all miss family and friends at home when we travel, so we want all the crew and Sir Richard Branson to feel that they have acquired new friends and family here.

We want you to know that you're always welcome in B.C., and we hope you will make yourselves at home.

Sir Richard, I know that you are an avid kite-surfer, and I invite you to surf Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island, some of the most exciting surfing in the world.

Now that you have this new route, I hope you'll take advantage of it, and visit often!

Welcome to British Columbia, Virgin Atlantic Airways!

- END -

Official Opening of New Gate Apartments, Kelowna
Friday, May 25, 2012
Speech length: 5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Official opening of New Gate Apartments, a new supportive housing development providing 49 apartments for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- This project is the last Kelowna MOU site to officially open.
- After speaking, Premier presents Provincial Homelessness Initiative plaque to Shelley Cook of the John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan.

Audience: who are they?

- Norm Letnick – MLA for Kelowna-Lake Country
- Mayor Walter Gray, City of Kelowna
- Steve Wilson, John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan (TBC)
- Shelley Cook, Executive Director, John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan (MC)
- Tenant, New gate Apartments, John Howard Society of the Central and South Okanagan (TBC)
- About 70 people expected to attend

Key Messages

- Four years ago, the Province and the City of Kelowna signed an agreement to build 128 new supportive housing units on three city-owned sites. Today the final and largest project has officially opened and is housing 49 individuals from this community who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- A special acknowledgment goes to the John Howard Society for all their efforts in bringing this project to its opening day and for all their work in the central and south Okanagan.
- Our success has come through a sound housing strategy and strong partnerships with local governments and community organizations.
- We have committed to build approximately 21,000 new units of affordable housing in the last decade. This is an investment that creates safe, quality housing that changes the lives of the people who call them home.

Check against delivery

- THANK EMCEE SHELLEY COOK, Executive Director of the John Howard Society, for introduction.
- Acknowledge:
 - Norm Letnick – MLA for Kelowna-Lake Country
 - Mayor Walter Gray, City of Kelowna
- It's wonderful to be here in Kelowna, and I'm honoured to help officially open New Gate Apartments today.
- Four years ago, the Province and the City of Kelowna signed an agreement to build 128 new supportive housing units on three city-owned sites.
- Now the final and largest project has officially opened and is housing 49 individuals from this community who were previously homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- New Gate Apartments is another important step in our collective efforts to break the cycle of homelessness in Kelowna...
- These apartments are the direct result of a strong desire in our community to create housing to help those in need.
- They are also the result of strong partnerships – between the Province, the City of Kelowna and the John Howard Society.
- The new four-storey building provides longer-term supportive housing to men and women at risk of homelessness.

- There are no quick solutions to homelessness and it takes the involvement of different levels of government and community partners.
- Here at New Gate, 49 people have moved in and are benefiting from an affordable housing option paired with onsite support services, such as mental health, addictions and medical support, as well as education and training programs.
- These support services, provided by John Howard Society, are helping tenants re-establish their connections to the community and helping make sure they don't return to the streets.
- But most importantly, people are given a special opportunity to change their lives.

- Our shared success has come through a sound housing strategy and strong partnerships with local governments and community organizations.
 - We have committed to build approximately 21,000 new units of affordable housing in the last decade.
-
- This is an investment that creates safe, quality housing that changes the lives of the people who call them home.
 - Yet it's not about the building, but rather how lives are improved and communities changed.
 - Whether it be a new start for someone who is battling addiction or been homeless, the stability and security of an affordable home for a family, or the positive impact of elder care when seniors have access to rent subsidies and affordable housing options.

- These joint investments add to the diversity of housing options, improve communities and benefit BC families in ways that often can't be measured by dollars or cents.
- A special acknowledgment goes to the John Howard Society for all their efforts in bringing this project to its opening day and for all their work in the central and south Okanagan.

{Premier to present Shelley Cook, Executive Director for John Howard Society, with a Provincial Homelessness Initiative plaque from the Province. (Rhonda Nguyen will assist and provide plaque)
PLEASE READ PLAQUE.}

"Free my Grapes" Rally
May 25, 2012
Speech Length: 5 Minutes

Event: what is it?

- Proactive event to be held in an Okanagan winery or VQA store, to support MP Dan Albas' private member's bill to break down interprovincial trade barriers for wine.
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Audience: who are they?

- Public
- MLAs
- MP Dan Albas
- BC Wine Growers Association members
- Kettle Valley Winery co-owner Bob Ferguson
- Okanagan community civic representatives
- Wine expert Harry McWatters (Okanagan wine pioneer)

Audience: what do they want to hear?

KEY THEME: Job creation

KEY MESSAGES:

- It's time to change archaic laws that put our wine making industry in a stranglehold.
 - Our wine producers deserve every opportunity to sell their products across the country so they can grow and create jobs.
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Check against delivery

Thank MC

ACKNOWLEDGE:

MP Dan Abbas

MLAs

Okanagan Mayors

Today I am going to talk to you about one of my favourite subjects – jobs for British Columbians.

Our B.C. Jobs Plan – Canada Starts Here - and our BC Agrifoods Strategy for Growth – both talk about working with our federal and provincial partners to open up new domestic markets for our wine.

As you know, B.C. produces world-renowned wines and we want to see residents of all provinces enjoy our product.

That's why British Columbia's government supports in principle a private members Bill proposed by our federal colleague MP Dan Abbas.

Bill C-311 proposes to amend current federal laws that restrict the movement of wine across provincial borders...

... Laws, believe it or not, that were drafted way back in 1928 to stop bootlegging during the Prohibition era.

Today, they are just frustrating winemakers and wine drinkers.

It's time to change these archaic laws that put our wine-making industry in a stranglehold.

If it is passed, the proposed amendment would allow each province to decide how much wine an individual can transport from another province.

... and what methods of purchase are acceptable for an individual wishing to purchase wine directly from a producer in another province.

For example, would a resident of Ontario be allowed to purchase a case of their favourite B.C. wine directly from the producer, via the Internet?

Bill C-311 has passed second reading and it is now going to committee and then the Senate.

This Bill could benefit B.C. wineries, which in turn will maintain and create jobs for British Columbians.

Our wine producers deserve every opportunity to sell their products right across this country so they can grow and create jobs.

The growth of the wine industry in our province has been very impressive.

B.C. now has over 200 grape wineries and more than 700 vineyards.

We produce enough wine every year to fill nearly 15 million bottles. Placed end to end, that would stretch from Vancouver to Toronto.

Last year, each of B.C.'s five wine regions won awards.

Bill C-311 can further increase our wine sales and help promote agritourism in British Columbia.

We are monitoring its progress with great interest and I look forward to the further discussions that will take place with our federal and provincial colleagues.

Thank you.

-END-

**Announcement of Family Day Date
Monday, May 28, 2012
(5 minutes)**

Event: what is it?

- Announcing that Family Day in B.C. will be observed on the second Monday of February each year.
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- Announcement will take place at the Vancouver Aquarium

Audience: who are they?

- Media
- David Lyn President & CEO Canada West Ski Areas Association will be in attendance.

Key Messages

- The Family Day statutory holiday in February, acknowledges and celebrates the importance of families in British Columbia.
- We asked British Columbians which day in February they wanted to take off to be with their families, because we wanted to make sure we got the date right.
- By scheduling Family Day in a different week than other provinces, we're allowing B.C. families to enjoy local attractions without crowding.
- We realized B.C.'s employers needed time to adjust to this new statutory holiday - waiting until 2013 to celebrate the first BC Family Day ensures businesses have time to prepare.

Check against delivery

I'm really delighted to be here with Margaret MacDiarmid (TBC).

Three weeks ago, we said we would consult with the public about Family Day, and that's what we did.

We asked British Columbians which day in February they wanted to be with their families, the second or third Wednesday in February – because we wanted to make sure we got the date right.

We engaged citizens through a Family Day website and online poll, as well as through Twitter and email

The feedback we received was impressive – there were more than 30 000 votes and more than 3000 comments.

I'm thankful British Columbians took the time to tell us what they think. That's what open government is all about – involving British Columbians in the decisions that affect them.

Start making your plans with your family because I'm delighted to tell you B.C.'s first Family Day will be on Monday, February 11, 2013.

That's the second Monday in February, starting in 2013 and every year after that.

We also consulted with worker groups, employers, the tourism industry and businesses to make sure all the economic and social benefits were taken into account.

And we heard lots of opinions about why people would prefer one day over another, and from many that would be happy with either day.

Let me tell you, there is very good reason to support both days.

But after weighing the options and considering British Columbians' input, we felt the second Monday of February creates opportunities for families and businesses across the province.

There are important benefits by having our own unique Family Day separate from other provinces, and US states celebrating President's Day the third Monday in February.

Families will be able to enjoy local attractions without having to compete with visitors from other provinces and from the U.S.

And long weekends are also an opportunity for tourism operators and all the businesses that work with them to generate income.

The other factor was the sheer level of support expressed for the second Monday. It was close to 2 to 1 in favour.

There were some really insightful comments that captured why the second Monday is the preferred option.

One person said: “by making it different than other neighbouring provinces and states, it makes it less busy in terms of travelling. I am more likely to take my kids downtown or on a mini vacation during off peak times making it a less stressful event for everyone involved.”

Another woman said: “I am a restaurant owner at 2 ski resorts and a busy Mom. This date allows us to maximize tourist business more evenly thru the month while also allowing my husband time off to explore other resorts in BC with our kids, when they will not be fully booked with US and Albertan customers.”

Ultimately, the opportunities and benefits we saw for both families and businesses with having our own unique day outweighed any potential challenges we might face by not aligning with other provinces and states.

But really, no matter our decision, this comment summed it up for me: “I’m just grateful to have an extra day to be home with my family. Yay Family Day!!!”

Families are our inspiration. They extend beyond bloodlines, to our support network of friends and mentors.

In BC we celebrate families of all kinds: large and small; same sex; culturally diverse; foster families and adopted children; new Canadians coming to a new country; a single mother caring for her young daughter; a son caring for his aging father.

The quality time we spend together is the glue that keeps families strong and helps strengthen our communities. You just can't put a dollar value on that.

Creating a Family Day in B.C. was an important priority. Today, my government is following through on that commitment.

I'm proud that B.C. will join other provinces across Canada and have a Family Day that we can call our own.

- END -

House Session Wrap-up
Thursday May 31, 2012
Speech length: 2-3 minutes

Event – What is It?

End of the Spring 2012 House Session

Audience: who are they?

TBC

KEY MESSAGES:

- Our government has been hard at work on behalf of British Columbians.
- Working families expect us to bring forward results that will make a real difference in their lives.
- We've accomplished a lot and we plan to keep working hard over the summer and into the fall.

House Wrap-up

Check against delivery

- Today is the last day of this House sitting, and it has been a busy session and a productive session.
- We've passed: the Education Improvement Act, Income Tax Amendment Act, School Amendment Act, Coastal Ferry Amendment Act, South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act, Criminal Asset Management Act, HST Transition rules legislation, and Provincial Sales Tax Act.
- Working families expect us to bring forward results that will make a real difference in their lives, and we've delivered.
- Introduced the new Family Day, beginning next February so people can have a well-deserved break in the middle of winter.
- Presented a budget that keeps us on track.
- Providing targeted tax relief for first-time home buyers, for seniors so they can stay in their homes, and for parents who want to put their kids in art and fitness programs.
- Accomplished a lot, and plan to keep working hard over the summer and into the fall.
- Will bring new ideas forward, placing an even stronger emphasis on families, providing new ways to engage with our government, and creating more jobs and economic prosperity for B.C.

House Wrap-up

- There's a lot more to do and we'll keep working for all British Columbians.

-END-

Highlights of Legislation passed during Spring 2012 Session:

- **A Family Day** for British Columbians, as promised, on the second Monday of February starting in 2013.
- **The Education Improvement Act**, implementing a \$195-million Learning Improvement Fund to provide additional support to teachers and administrators, and added resources to classrooms with the highest needs.
- **The Income Tax Amendment Act**, establishing the B.C. First-Time New Home Buyers' \$10,000 Bonus and the B.C. Seniors' \$1,000 annual Home Renovation Tax Credit for those 65 years of age and older.
- **School Amendment Act**, giving school districts the opportunity to offer more flexible school calendar options to better meet the needs of students and B.C. families.
- **Coastal Ferry Amendment Act**. British Columbia's world-class ferry system is integral to the way of life for many British Columbians. The act responds to recommendations by the BC Ferry Commissioner with a three-pronged approach that balances the interests of ferry users, taxpayers and the ferry operator.
- **South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Act**. Our government is giving new powers to TransLink to go after people who steal transit rides.

- **Criminal Asset Management Act** enables prosecutors to pursue criminal forfeiture more frequently by establishing a way to manage assets restrained, seized or forfeited under the Criminal Code and other criminal law statutes.
- **HST Transition rules legislation.** Measures include increasing the B.C. new housing rebate threshold to \$850,000 for a maximum rebate of \$42,500 and a new grant of up to \$42,500 for purchasers of new secondary vacation or recreational homes up to \$850,000 outside the Greater Vancouver and Capital Regional Districts.
- **Provincial Sales Tax Act.** This act meets our government's commitment to return to the Provincial Sales Tax on April 1, 2013. As committed, the PST is being re-implemented with all permanent exemptions but also with some common-sense improvements that will make administration of the sales tax easier for businesses.

Kootenay Child Development Centre
Saturday June 9, 2012
Speech length: 2 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Government is providing a \$50,000 community gaming grant to the Kootenay Child Development Centre to enable it to expand its programs and services

Audience: who are they?

- Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett
- Gwen Noble, Community Connections (TBC)
- Kootenay Child Development Centre reps (TBC)
- Families

KEY MESSAGES:

- This centre is exactly what Kootenay-based families need and we are proud to support the completion of this important community facility.
- The KCDC centralizes a number of health and development services for children, reducing travel time for parents and allowing them to access comprehensive supports in one building.
- Every parent knows how difficult it is to juggle life's many demands, and every moment that can be spared is valuable. But what is most important is that children receive the care they need in a timely way, with the least amount of stress on parents.

Check against delivery

- Delighted to be in Cranbrook. Honoured to speak with you.
- Thank Kootenay East MLA Bill Bennett for his unwavering support of the fundraising efforts for the new Centre.
- Very happy to announce that our government is providing a \$50,000 community gaming grant to the Kootenay Child Development Centre to help you expand the programs and services you provide to families throughout the Kootenays.
- This centre is exactly what Kootenay-based families need, and we are proud to support the completion of this important community facility.
- The health and development services that kids in the Kootenays need will now be centralized, reducing travel time and stress for parents.
- Every parent knows how difficult it is to juggle life's many demands, and every moment that can be spared is important.
- But what is most important is that children receive the care they need in a timely way, with the least possible amount of stress on the parents.
- That's just one reason my government is putting families first in B.C.

- Wish I could be here for your grand opening on celebration this coming Friday – it's going to be a great event.
-

Prostate Cancer Foundation of BC
Safeway Father's Day walk/run
Sunday, June 17, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- The 14th annual Safeway Father's Day walk/run (formally the Do it for Dad). This event is a celebration of men and their families, not just a walk/run – all proceeds in support Prostate Cancer Foundation BC.

Audience: who are they?

- Health Minister Michael de Jong
-

Prostate cancer survivors:

- Former Attorney General and provincial judge Wally Oppal
- Don Konantz, CEO and founder of Colorworks
- Dr. Riley Senft

- Dr. Martin Gleave, executive director of the Vancouver Prostate Centre (TBC)
- Dr. Larry Goldenberg, founding director of VPC.
- Walk/run participants
- Media

Key Messages:

- Prostate cancer affects one in seven men. Even though B.C. has some of the best cancer survival rates in Canada, we can always do more.

- That's why our government has contributed more than \$10 million to the Vancouver Prostate Centre to research new treatments in the disease, which is seen as a world leader in research and treatment of prostate cancer.

- This disease has taken far too many grandfathers, fathers, sons, husbands and loved ones from their families and we need to do everything we can to help find a cure. That is why we are committed to raising awareness and providing support.

Check against delivery

- Hearing the diagnosis of cancer for any family is frightening and devastating news – my family knows this deeply.
- Prostate cancer has taken our grandfathers, fathers, husbands, brothers and sons, and is the third-leading cause of male cancer death after lung cancer and colorectal cancer.
- Too many men are still diagnosed with this terrible disease. This year alone, about 3,575 British Columbian men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and it's the second-leading cause of male cancer deaths. About 540 men in B.C. expected to die in 2012.
- Prostate Cancer is a “silent disease” that affects one in seven men, but we know that detection and treatment in its earliest stages provides the best chance for a complete cure.
- Our investments in cancer research are paying off as British Columbia has some of the best outcomes in North America, with a cancer care system that is a model for other provinces.
- Even though B.C. has some of the best cancer survival rates in Canada, we can do more.
- This past March, we committed \$5 million to the Vancouver Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital.
- Since 2001, we have invested more than \$800 million in health research, including more than \$10 million to the Prostate Centre.
- My government is committed to investing in cancer research to build on our reputation as a world-leader.

Aga Khan Announcement
Sunday, May 27, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- To announce a \$25,000 one-time grant to the Aga Khan Foundation for the World Partnership Walk 2012. Through the walk the foundation supports international development programs and initiatives.
-

Audience: who are they?

- Representatives of Aga Khan Foundation
 - Health Minister Mike de Jong
 - Minister of State for Multiculturalism John Yap
 - MLAs
 - BC families
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Check against delivery

KEY MESSAGES:

This incredible walk... to help end human suffering in the world's poorest regions... started almost 30 years ago.

And over that time...year after year... step after step... the Aga Khan Foundation, with the support of all of you, has raised over \$70 million!

I want to thank all of you today and, especially, the amazing Aga Khan Foundation for making the World Partnership Walk such an important Canadian tradition.

My government is honoured to be here with you and contribute a \$25,000 grant in support of this walk and your incredible efforts.

The Aga Khan and the Ismaili people are so special to our province and to our country... family, service, selflessness – these are bedrock beliefs you bless us with... beliefs that help define who we are and who we all need to be as British Columbians.

Today, once again, you bring people together, of all faiths, to walk a common course... and to share with each other the joy that comes from walking together in peace and with purpose to make a better world.

Thank you all.

Aga Khan Announcement
Sunday, May 27, 2012
Speech length: 2-3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- To announce a \$25,000 one-time grant to the Aga Khan Foundation for the World Partnership Walk 2012. Through the walk the foundation supports international development programs and initiatives.
-

Audience: who are they?

- Representatives of Aga Khan Foundation
- Health Minister Mike de Jong
- Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government Minister Margaret MacDiarmid
- Minister of State for Multiculturalism John Yap
- MLAs
- BC families

Key Messages:

My government is honoured to be here with you and contribute a \$25,000 grant in support of this walk and your incredible efforts.

The Aga Khan and the Ismaili people are so special to our province and to our country... family, service, selflessness – these are bedrock beliefs you bless us with... beliefs that help define who we are and who we all need to be as British Columbians.

Today, once again, you bring people together, of all faiths, to walk a common course... and to share with each other the joy that comes from walking together in peace and with purpose to make a better world.

Acknowledgments:

- **Karim Salemhamed**, Convenor, World Partnership Walk
- Hon. **Michael de Jong**, Minister of Health (Abbotsford West)
- Hon. **John Yap**, MoS for Multiculturalism (Richmond-Steveston)
- Hon. **Margaret MacDiarmid**, Min of Labour, Citizens' Services & Open Government (Vancouver-Fairview)
- **Dave Hayer** (Surrey-Tynehead)
- **Douglas Horne** (Coquitlam-Burke Mountain)
- **Richard Lee** (Burnaby North)
- **Linda Reid** (Richmond East)
- **Jane Thornthwaite** (North Vancouver-Seymour)
- **Andrew Saxton**, MP for North Vancouver

- This incredible walk... to help end human suffering in the world's poorest regions... started almost 30 years ago.
- The Aga Khan Foundation, with the support of all of you, has raised over \$70 million!
- The World Partnership Walk such an important Canadian tradition.
- **My government is honoured to be here with you and contribute a \$25,000 grant in support of this walk and your incredible efforts.**
- The Aga Khan and the Ismaili people are so special to our province and to our country... family, service, selflessness
- Thank volunteers and organizers: you bring people together, of all faiths, to walk a common course... and to share with each other the joy that comes from walking together in peace and with purpose to make a better world.
- Thank you

**Pista ng Byan Philippine Celebration
Sunday, June 3, 2012**

Event: what is it?

"Together As One" celebration - many Filipino-Canadian organizations in Metro Vancouver are teaming up for the first time with the Philippine Consul General to stage three events to mark the 114th anniversary of Philippine independence this year, which occurs on June 12.

The events are: Flag-Raising at the Filipino Plaza (June 2); Pista ng Bayan at Slocan Park (June 3); and Historama, to be staged at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (June 9).

NOTE: *Pista ng Byan means "feast of the nation". It will prominently feature Parada ng Lechon, which means "parade of pigs". There will be a parade of roasted pigs, some dressed up, which are traditional at village celebrations.*

Audience: who are they?

Consul General Jose Ampeso
Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson
MLA Mabel Elmore
MLA Adrian Dix

Key Messages

- I was proud to be the first B.C. Premier to officially visit your beautiful country, and I had great discussions about labour mobility
- I am so grateful that you have chosen to make B.C. your home / great contributors to BC's growth and prosperity
- Congratulations on your community celebration prior to the Philippines Independence Day celebration.

Pista ng Byan Philippine Celebration – June 3

Check against delivery

I was proud to be the first B.C. Premier to officially visit your beautiful country, and I had great discussions there about labour mobility.

You've given me a welcome as warm as the one I received when I was in the Philippines just last month.

I'm so grateful that you have chosen to make B.C. your home and I thank you for your great contribution to the growth of our province and its prosperity.

I'm really delighted to celebrate your "Together As One" event with you today, leading up to the 114th Philippine Independence Day celebration.

Comment [PC1]: <http://www.philindepe-ndence-van.ca/>

I feel a particular affinity for the Philippines since I visited there, and I met with the Secretary of Labour and Employment, Rosalinda Baldoz and Foreign Minister Albert del Rosario.

We talked about the ways labour mobility helps both our countries and our strong cultural ties, and we want to strengthen our relationship with the Philippines.

Together, we're a lot stronger, and we can accomplish so much that is beneficial to everyone.

I wish you all the best as you celebrate 114 years of independence for the Philippines!

- END -

Pista ng Bayan Philippine Celebration Sunday, June 3, 2012

Event: what is it?

"Together As One" celebration - many Filipino-Canadian organizations in Metro Vancouver are teaming up for the first time with the Philippine Consul General to stage three events to mark the 114th anniversary of Philippine independence this year, which occurs on June 12.

The events are: Flag-Raising at the Filipino Plaza (June 2); Pista ng Bayan at Slocan Park (June 3); and Historama, to be staged at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre (June 9).

NOTE: Pista ng Bayan means "feast of the nation". It will prominently feature Parada ng Lechon, which means "parade of pigs". There will be a parade of roasted pigs, some dressed up, which are traditional at village celebrations.

Audience: who are they?

Consul General Jose Ampeso
Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson
MLA Mabel Elmore
MLA Adrian Dix

Key Messages

- **I was proud to be the first B.C. Premier to officially visit your beautiful country, and I had great discussions about labour mobility**
- **I am so grateful that you have chosen to make B.C. your home / great contributors to BC's growth and prosperity**
- **Congratulations on your community celebration prior to the Philippines Independence Day celebration.**

- I was proud to be the first B.C. Premier to officially visit your beautiful country, and I had great discussions there about labour mobility.
 - Thank you for the warm welcome, much like I received last month.
-
- I'm so grateful that you have chosen to make B.C. your home and I thank you for your great contribution to the growth of our province and its prosperity.
 - I'm really delighted to celebrate your "Together As One" event with you today, leading up to the 114th Philippine Independence Day celebration.
 - I feel a particular affinity for the Philippines since I visited there, and I met with the Secretary of Labour and Employment, Rosalinda Baldoz and Foreign Minister Albert del Rosario.
 - We talked about the ways labour mobility helps both our countries and our strong cultural ties.
 - We're stronger together
-
- I wish you all the best as you celebrate 114 years of independence for the Philippines!

- END -

Groundbreaking - Ronald McDonald House in Vancouver
Thursday, June 7, 2012
Speech Length: 2-3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Groundbreaking event for the new Ronald McDonald House on the campus of the BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's hospitals in Vancouver.

Audience: who are they?

- Approximately 150 guests expected, including:
 - Mike de Jong, Minister of Health (speaking role)
 - Richard Pass, Ronald McDonald House BC CEO (speaking role)
 - Peter Snell, Board of Directors President (speaking role)
 - Gary Segal, Board of Directors (speaking role)
 - Barbara Mohan (speaker) and her son Jasper. (both staying at the House)
 - Families and volunteers involved with Ronald McDonald House
 - BC Children's Hospital Staff
 - Major Donors and Funders, Construction Partners
 - Media

Key Messages

- The new Ronald McDonald House will benefit families by allowing up to 73 families to stay at a time – over 2,100 families per year.
- RMH will be a 'home away from home', allowing families to focus on healing and recovery, without having to worry about finances and accommodations.
- The new facility complements the redevelopment project already underway at BC Children's Hospital.

Ronald McDonald House Groundbreaking

Check against delivery

It's an honour to be part of the groundbreaking for the new Ronald McDonald House.

This house truly is a 'home away from home' for families all over BC who have to bring their kids to B.C. Children's Hospital for treatment.

It allows families to stay together during some of the most difficult circumstances and eases the emotional and financial strain so parents can focus on caring for their kids.

Our government is proud to support the new Ronald McDonald House as it helps B.C. families during a time of need. That is why we have provided \$13.375-million for a new building.

Once complete, 73 families will be able to stay at one time. That means more than 2,100 families will be able to stay per year compared to the older Ronald McDonald House that could only accommodate 400 families per year.

This new facility complements the redevelopment project already underway at BC Children's Hospital.

Over the coming weeks we will announce more ideas and actions to support our commitment to B.C. families, including our Families First Agenda – our plan to strengthen our families

Ronald McDonald House Groundbreaking

and communities and prioritize government actions to improve the lives of all B.C. families.

Groundbreaking - Ronald McDonald House in Vancouver
Thursday, June 7, 2012
Speech Length: 2-3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Groundbreaking event for the new Ronald McDonald House on the campus of the BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's hospitals in Vancouver.

Audience: who are they?

- Approximately 100 guests expected, including:
 - Richard Pass, Ronald McDonald House BC CEO (speaking role)
 - Peter Snell, Board of Directors President (speaking role)
 - Gary Segal, Board of Directors (speaking role)
 - Barbara Mohan (speaker) and her son Jasper. (both staying at the House)
 - Families and volunteers involved with Ronald McDonald House
 - BC Children's Hospital Staff
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 - Media

Key Messages

- Our government knows that during such difficult times, its important families are able to be together, and that's why Ronald McDonald House facilities are so invaluable as they provide a place of refuge, warmth and love.
- Our government is a proud supporter of the new Ronald McDonald House as it helps B.C. families during a time of need, easing the emotional and financial strain for parents so they can focus on supporting and caring for their child.
- More than 2,100 families will be able to stay over one year, while the older Ronald McDonald House could only accommodate 400 families per year.

*you are also foreshadowing the upcoming Families First Agenda rollout

Ronald McDonald House Groundbreaking

Acknowledge:

- Richard Pass (thank him for his introduction)
- Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver-False Creek
- Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Labour, Citizen's Services and Open Government and MLA for Vancouver-Fraserview
- Colin Hansen, MLA for Vancouver-Quilchena

Ronald McDonald House Groundbreaking

- It's an honour to be here.
- This house truly is a 'home away from home' for families all over BC who have to bring their kids to B.C. Children's Hospital for treatment.
- Our government is a proud supporter of Ronald McDonald House facilities, as they are invaluable places of refuge, warmth and love.
- Ronald McDonald House allows families to stay together during some of the most difficult circumstances and eases the emotional and financial strain so parents can focus on caring for their child.
- Once complete, over 70 families will be able to stay at one time. That means more than 2,100 families will be able to stay per year (old House only 400 families a year)
- Over the coming weeks we will announce more ideas and actions to support our commitment to B.C. families, including our Families First Agenda – our plan to strengthen our families and communities and prioritize government actions to improve the lives of all B.C. families.

Irving Barber Celebration of Life
Monday June 11, 2012
Speech length: 2-3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Memorial Service for Irving K. Barber

Audience: who are they?

Friends and family of Irving Barber

Program:

~~Mike Apsey, Former Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Master of Ceremonies~~
John Chenoweth, Dean of Community Education and Applied Programs, NVIT Aboriginal Prayer
Stephen J. Toope, President and Vice-Chancellor, The University of British Columbia
Rory Fulber, Recipient, Irving K. Barber British Columbia Transfer Scholarship
Hon. Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia, MLA, Vancouver-Point Grey
Don Clutterham and Terry Upgaard, Slocan Forest Products Ltd. Colleagues and Friends
Lower Mainland Doukhobor Choir and Friends
Martha Piper Former President and Vice-Chancellor, The University of British Columbia
James I. Barber Tribute
Video presentation

Key messages

- Irving "Ike" Barber was a great Canadian and a true British Columbian icon.
- He personified one of life's greatest principles by giving back to his community and his province.
- His legacy will live on in educational facilities like the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC and the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC's Kelowna campus.

Check against delivery

- Today we celebrate the life of a great Canadian and a true British Columbian icon, Irving “Ike” Barber.
- For most of his life Irving worked in our province’s forest industry, founding Slocan Forest Products at age 55.
- During his 24 years at the company’s helm, it became a leader in our forest sector, but more important than that, Irving Barber personified one of life’s greatest principles – he gave back. He gave back to his community and to his province.
- He gave back generously and selflessly, contributing tens of millions of dollars to support research and education throughout B.C.
- His legacy will live on in UBC’s Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, to which he donated \$20 million dollars in 2006, the largest single donation to a project in the university’s history...
- And in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC’s Kelowna campus, to which he donated \$10 million dollars in 2004.
- On behalf of British Columbians everywhere, I offer our sympathy and condolences to his wife Jean, his three children and his extended family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.
- The likes of Irving K. Barber come along all too rarely, and he will truly be missed throughout British Columbia.

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**Roots of Empathy
Vancouver Baby Celebration
Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- The event will bring together program participants and representatives with some of B.C.'s tiniest teachers: babies who accompany their parents to elementary classrooms around the province throughout the year to help students understand empathy and reduce bullying and aggression.
-

Audience: who are they?

- Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development
- Roots of Empathy trained mothers and babies – up to 70 babies
- Mary Gordon, Roots of Empathy founder
- Vancouver ROE co-ordinator
- Children who participated in ROE program
- Possibly teachers and principles

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Government recognizes the value of the Roots of Empathy program – as it helps address the very serious issues of bullying and violence in schools.
 2. Bullying has no place in our schools and parents deserve to know their children are safe in school. This issue is a priority for me.
 3. The Roots of Empathy Program offers an enlightened way of opening children's eyes to the world around them, and teaching young children about empathy, trust, and encouraging kindness with one another.
-

Check against delivery

- We now know just how important it is to have babies visit the classroom to encourage children's empathy for others who may be different than they are.
 - I was extremely proud to see the re-instatement of this powerful and impactful program into BC classrooms at the end of the 2011 school year.
-
- Bullying has no place in our schools and parents deserve to know their children are safe in school.
 - So as part of our anti-bullying strategy, my government has committed to provide ongoing funding to expand the Roots of Empathy (ROE) and Seeds of Empathy (SOE) programs.
 - I want to thank all the parents who brought their babies into BC schools and the thousands of B.C. teachers who opened their classroom in hopes of helping their students develop social and emotional literacy.
 - I also want to thank Minister Children and Family Development Mary McNeil and Education Minister George Abbott, whose ministries committed \$400,000 each beginning this year for 5 years.
-
- This funding will ensure that teachers have the support and training they need to implement these programs in their classrooms.

-END-

Story for possible inclusion:

- A story about the program that has stuck with me is one told to me about the current assistant superintendent of School District 54 (Smithers), Mike McDiarmid.
- When his oldest son was in kindergarten, the class participated in the Roots of Empathy program
- Mike and his wife had just had a new baby. The boy told his parents that since they had a mom and dad in their family, and him, they didn't need this new baby – so they could send it back.
- But as the year went on the little kindergarten student gradually became an expert on babies, coming home with parenting tips for them.
- Eventually, this little boy came to adore his tiny baby brother, and his father says that Roots of Empathy absolutely improved his home life.

Additional Facts on Roots of Empathy:

- B.C. was the 2nd province in Canada to offer the Roots of Empathy program. In 2000, it began in just 10 classrooms in Vancouver.

- To date, Roots of Empathy has reached more than 100,000 B.C. children and has included nearly 4,000 babies, many of whom are now students themselves.

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Audience: who are they?

- Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development
- Roots of Empathy trained mothers and babies – up to 70 babies (including Christina Price, Parent of Timothy)
- Mary Gordon, Roots of Empathy founder
- Lyle Vireck, Director, Roots of Empathy Board of Directors
- Chief Ian Campbell
- Children who participated in ROE program

KEY MESSAGES:

1. Government recognizes the value of the Roots of Empathy program – as it helps address the very serious issues of bullying and violence in schools.
2. Bullying has no place in our schools and parents deserve to know their children are safe in school. This issue is a priority for me.
3. The Roots of Empathy Program offers an enlightened way of opening children's eyes to the world around them, and teaching young children about empathy, trust, and encouraging kindness with one another.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Hon. Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver – False Creek
 - Linda Reid, MLA for Richmond East
-
- Mary Campbell, founder and President of Roots of Empathy
 - Lyle Vireck, Director, Roots of Empathy
 - Chief Campbell for the blessing
 - Babies and mothers who volunteered their time to this worthwhile program

- We now know just how important it is to have babies visit the classroom to encourage children's empathy for others who may be different than they are.
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- To date, Roots of Empathy has reached more than 100,000 B.C. children and has included nearly 4,000 babies, many of whom are now students themselves.

**Barkerville Visit
Wednesday, June 13, 2012**

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of \$2.4 million to support Barkerville's operations as the largest living history museum– 125 historic buildings - in western N. America.
- Declared a National Historic Site of Canada in 1923, and a Provincial Heritage Site in 1958.
- Barkerville is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

Audience: who are they?

- John Massier – president , Barkerville Heritage Trust
- Others TBC

Key Messages

- I'm proud to be here at Barkerville's 150th anniversary to support the preservation of the town, a great place for B.C. families and visitors to learn more about British Columbia's history, hands-on.
- The \$2.1 million is part of \$21 million over 3 years to support B.C. heritage sites that we announced in Budget 2012 .
- Barkerville played an instrumental role in the founding of British Columbia.

Check against delivery

- On Barkerville's 150th anniversary, I'm here to present a \$2.4 million grant to support the town's operations as the largest living history museum—125 historic buildings - in western N. America.
- We're proud to support the preservation of Barkerville, a great place for B.C. families and visitors to learn more about British Columbia's history, hands-on, and the great work you do here.
- More than 100,000 people came to the Cariboo between 1862 and 1870 to look for gold, making it the largest city west of Chicago and north of San Francisco. The growth and attraction of Barkerville was instrumental in the founding of B.C.
- I brought back a letter of intent last fall from the Guangdong Museum of Overseas Chinese, to host a photographic exhibit in 2013 called Who Am I? It documents the lives of Chinese migrants in Barkerville in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and it also strengthens our relationship and showcases Barkerville as a tourist destination.
- In Budget 2012, we announced \$21 million over three years to support 11 provincial heritage properties. This will provide support for operations and maintenance. It will bring more financial certainty to the sites across B.C. that attract tourists and visitors.

**Barkerville Visit
Wednesday, June 13, 2012**

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- Announcement of \$2.4 million to support Barkerville's operations as the largest living history museum— 125 historic buildings - in western N. America.
- Declared a National Historic Site of Canada in 1923, and a Provincial Heritage Site in 1958.
- Barkerville is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

Audience: who are they?

- Total expected: 60 people
- Sue Morhun, Board Chair of Barkerville (speaking role)
- Judy Campbell, Executive Director of Barkerville (speaking role)
- Roughly 30 employees
- Friends of Barkerville
- Barkerville Board members

Key Messages

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- The \$2.4 million is part of \$21 million over 3 years to support B.C. heritage sites that we announced in Budget 2012.
- Barkerville played an instrumental role in the founding of British Columbia.

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Sue Morhun, Board Chair of Barkerville (thank for introduction)
- Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources
- Honourable John Yap, Minister of State for Multiculturalism
- Marc Dalton, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission
- Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture
- Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- Ron Cantelon, MLA for Parksville-Qualicum
- Honourable Pat Bell, Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation
- Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North

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St. Paul's Hospital Redevelopment
Wednesday, June 13, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Announcement of the start of planning for redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital, as a part of Budget 2012.
- The event comes a day after government announced a commitment to redevelop Royal Columbian Hospital.

Audience: who are they?

- Dianne Doyle, Providence Health Care President and CEO
- Dr. Eric Grafstein, head of emergency procedure, St. Paul's Hospital
- Others TBC

Key Messages

- **Redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital is a priority for our government and we are committed to redevelop the facility to ensure that patients and their families continue to receive the world-class health care the St. Paul's is renowned for.**
- **It's of great importance that we take the next steps in the redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital. That's why my government is announcing the concept plan is currently being finalized for the project.**
- **Patients and health care professionals can have confidence that my government is placing great priority on addressing redevelopment and modernization of St. Paul's Hospital.**

Check against delivery

- Very happy to be here today – a turning point in the history of St. Paul's hospital – just one day after my government announced our commitment to redevelop Royal Columbian Hospital.
- St. Paul's delivers world-class care to families in Vancouver and from across B.C., but we all know it's facing significant aging infrastructure challenges, and the facilities weren't built to meet today's acute care standards.
- So it's critically important that we take the next steps in the redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital.
- I want both patients and health care professionals to know they can have confidence that my government is placing great priority on addressing the redevelopment and modernization of St. Paul's Hospital.
- That's why I'm excited to announce that we are moving ahead on developing a concept plan for redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital as part of Budget 2012.
- Finalizing the concept plan is a critical milestone that will lay a strong foundation for a redeveloped hospital that will ensure that in the years to come, patients and their families will continue to receive the world-class health care the St. Paul's is renowned for.

FACT SHEET – St. Paul's Hospital Vancouver

- Business plan development is expected to take place in 2013 and 2014 with procurement to follow shortly after.
 - Planning may include construction of a new outpatient care building on the northwest corner of the current St. Paul's Hospital site as well as site infrastructure upgrades and renovations to existing buildings.
-
- Since 2001, the Government of B.C. and its funding partners have invested more than \$80 million in renovating and upgrading St. Paul's Hospital.
 - Last September, Minister de Jong announced \$17.2 million for St. Paul's to replace aging electrical systems and elevators.
 - St. Paul's has been serving Vancouver since 1894 and some parts of the hospital are 100 years old.
 - St. Paul's is a renowned teaching hospital with a strong research focus, recognized provincially, nationally and internationally for its work in the areas of heart disease, kidney disease, nutritional disorders, HIV/AIDS and the care of the disadvantaged.
 - St. Paul's is home to world-class clinics, such as the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, run by Dr. Julio Montaner, which marked its 20th anniversary in March 2012.
 - It also houses the innovative Distal Extremities Surgical Clinic, and the world-renowned Heart Centre, a complete cardiac care program.
 - The Distal Extremities Surgical Clinic at St Paul's Hospital has reduced wait times, increased surgeries and improved recovery times for patients in need of foot, ankle, hand or wrist surgery.
 - More than \$7 billion has been invested over the last 10 years in health capital projects in B.C.

- St. Paul's Hospital has 520 acute care beds.

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- Announcement of the start of planning for redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital, as a part of Budget 2012.
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Audience: who are they?

- Minister de Jong
- Dianne Doyle, Providence Health Care President and CEO
- Dr. Eric Grafstein, head of emergency procedure, St. Paul's Hospital
- Health care professionals
- Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver-False Creek
- Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Vancouver-Fairview

Key Messages

- **Redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital is a priority for our government and we are committed to redevelop the facility to ensure that patients and their families continue to receive the world-class health care the St. Paul's is renowned for.**
- **It's of great importance that we take the next steps in the redevelopment of St. Paul's Hospital. That's why my government is announcing the concept plan is currently being finalized for the project.**
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- St. Paul's Hospital has 520 acute care beds.

Vancouver Office Opening – Agricultural Bank of China
Monday, June 18, 2012
Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Celebration of the opening of the Vancouver office of the Agricultural Bank of China (AgBank), their first in Canada.
 - Two-hour even with Chinese cultural performances, video presentations followed by a reception.
-

Audience: who are they?

- Dr Pan Gongshen, Executive Director and Executive VP of AgBank
- Mr. Shin Hao, Vancouver representative, AgBank
- Her Excellence Liu Fei, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Vancouver
- Members of the Chinese community, including Chinese Enterprise Association, Taiwan Business Association, Canadian-China Business Council, Hong Kong Business Association
- Expected audience size, approx. 250 people

Key Messages

- **Congratulations to the Agricultural Bank of China on this occasion of the opening of their Vancouver office, their first in Canada.**
- **This is a prime example of how international education initiatives can lead to business and trade opportunities.**
- **We look forward to continuing to support Agriculture Bank of China's work as they facilitate the activities of other Chinese companies, which will build the BC economy through investment and by managing transactions, particularly with Chinese and Asian firms.**

Check against delivery

- Happy to be here at the opening of the first Canadian-based office of the Agricultural Bank of China, right here in Vancouver.
- In B.C., one thing that sets us apart is that we share strong and deeply rooted historical and cultural linkages. We have built strong ties and important relationships.
- The opening of this office is a prime example of how human connection can drive economic growth. It is an example of how government's international education initiatives lead to business and trade opportunities.
- When I led our first Jobs and Trade Mission to China last year, we focused on spreading the message that Canada Starts Here in British Columbia: Safe haven for investment; Low personal and corporate taxes; Triple A credit rating; Skilled labour force; World-class infrastructure.
- We also focused on attracting international students who will become friends and unofficial ambassadors for BC.
- There's a great example of that here today in AgBank's Chief Representative in Vancouver, Mr. Shin Hao, who studied at UBC.
- The Agricultural Bank of China office will provide a critical link for Chinese companies interested in doing business in BC and Canada; and also for BC businesses looking to expand to China.
- Congratulations and welcome to AgBank. We look forward to a long and prosperous future with you here in BC.

Agricultural Bank of China Facts

- Established in 1951 as the Agricultural Cooperative Bank.
- On Jan. 15, 2009 AgBank was restructured into a joint stock liability company and has been listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since July 2010.
- A prime focus for the bank is catering to the needs of rural development in China, while expanding into the international market as a first-class commercial bank.
- In 2011, the bank ranked #127 in Fortune's Global 500, and #7 in The Bankers "Top 1,000 World Banks" list in terms of profit for 2010.
- As of 2011, it ranked 8th among the top 100 world banks
- 23,461 domestic branch outlets in China, including Head Office in Beijing.
- Overseas outlets consisted of 3 branches and 4 representative offices – the representative office in Vancouver will be the 5th.
- ABC has 320 million retail customers, 2.7 million corporate clients, and nearly 24,000 branches. It is China's third largest lender by assets.

Vancouver Office Opening – Agricultural Bank of China

Monday, June 18, 2012

Speech length: 3-5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Celebration of the opening of the Vancouver office of the Agricultural Bank of China (AgBank), their first in Canada.
 - Two-hour event with Chinese cultural performances, video presentations followed by a reception.
-

Audience: who are they?

- Mr. Chao Gong, Senior Vice President, Agricultural Bank of China (From Beijing head office) (speaking role)
- Deputy Consul General Runlong Mao (speaking role)
- Mr. Hao Shi, Chief Representative of Agricultural Bank of China in Vancouver (speaking role)
- Mr. BC Lee, Fireglow Communications (Emcee)
- Members of the Chinese community, including Chinese Enterprise Association, Taiwan Business Association, Canadian-China Business Council, Hong Kong Business Association
- Expected audience size, approx. 250 people

Key Messages

- **Congratulations to the Agricultural Bank of China on this occasion of the opening of their Vancouver office, their first in Canada.**
 - **This is a prime example of how international education initiatives can lead to business and trade opportunities.**
-
- **We look forward to continuing to support Agriculture Bank of China's work as they facilitate the activities of other Chinese companies, which will build the BC economy through investment and by managing transactions, particularly with Chinese and Asian firms.**

ACKNOWLEDGE:

- Mr. B.C. Lee, MC (thank for introduction)
- Mr. Chao Gong, Senior Vice President, Agricultural Bank of China (From Beijing head office)
- Deputy Consul General Runlong Mao
- Mr. Hao Shi, Chief Representative of Agricultural Bank of China in Vancouver
- Honourable Mary McNeil, Minister of Children and Family Development and MLA for Vancouver – False Creek
- Honourable Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Labour, Citizens' Services and Open Government and MLA for Vancouver – Fairview

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Smoke Alarm Campaign Event – West Kelowna

June 26, 2012

Speech Length: 1-2 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Third in a series of smoke alarm events being held across B.C. with the goal of saving lives by having a working smoke alarm in every B.C. household. This event will announce West Kelowna as the newest partner in the campaign.

Audience: who are they?

- Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General and MLA for Prince George-Valemount
- Ben Stewart, MLA Westside-Kelowna
- Hon. Steve Thomson, Minister of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and MLA for Kelowna – Mission
- Hon. Stephanie Cadieux, Minister of Social Development and MLA for Surrey Panorama
- Len Garis, President, Fire Chiefs Association of B.C. and Surrey Fire Chief
- Doug Findlater, Mayor, District of West Kelowna
- Kidde Canada rep Pat Follett, Black Press and insurance industry representatives
- Westbank First Nation representatives
- Media

Audience: What do They Want to Hear?

KEY THEME: Safety and Security for Families

KEY MESSAGES

- **The goal of this campaign is to have a working smoke alarm in every household in British Columbia and throughout Canada. The Fire Chiefs Association of B.C. and our office of the Fire Commissioner are providing leadership to ensure this life-saving campaign is effective and sustained.**
- **Since the campaign kicked off in March, it has gained \$425,000 in support from Kidde Canada and Black Press, including the donation of 5,000 smoke alarms and a \$350,000 multimedia investment.**
- **I am pleased to announce that West Kelowna is now the newest member of the campaign.**

Check against delivery

- Acknowledge: Minister Bond, Minister Thomson, Minister Cadieux, MLA Stewart, and Pat Follett from Kidde (Kid-dah) Canada
- Making sure families are protected and feel safe is a key part of our government's Families First agenda. One of the simplest, most effective ways we can protect the safety of B.C. families in their homes is by ensuring they all have a working smoke alarm that they test regularly. In fact, research shows working smoke detectors can reduce fire related deaths by 32 percent.
- This is what the Families First agenda is all about – targeted measures that can have a big impact on the lives of B.C. families.
- Our government and its partners launched the Smoke Alarm Campaign in March to achieve that goal, with spectacular results.
- Kidde (Kid-dah) Canada provided 5,000 smoke alarms and Black Press donated a \$350,000 multimedia investment. BC Hydro is getting the message out to its 200,000 customers using blogs, social media and an e-newsletter.
- We are guided by the Fire Chiefs' Association of B.C., the office of the Fire Commissioner and supported by the Insurance Brokers Association of B.C., to name a few.
- And we are gaining momentum. Today, I am especially proud to announce that West Kelowna has become our newest partner in this important program.

June 26, 2012 - Smoke Detector Campaign Event

- We know that older British Columbians are particularly at risk and with so many people choosing to retire in the beautiful Okanagan, our campaign is especially relevant here.
- Thank you West Kelowna for helping us get out an important message that reflects our commitment to families in this province.
- ~~Working Smoke alarms save lives, and prevent injuries and property damage in B.C. You owe it to your family to have them. It's a matter of life and death.~~

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TELUS Data Centre Ground-breaking
Friday, June 29, 2012
Speech length: 5 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Official ground-breaking of Kamloops data centre site
- It will be announced that for each guest in attendance, a tree will be planted by Tree Canada.
- A cheque for the total raised by TELUS's Phones and TVs for Good campaign in the region will be presented to the benefiting charity, the Royal Inland Hospital Foundation. The amount will be for \$360,000 and Darren Entwistle will cross this out with a marker during the presentation and change it to \$400,000.

Audience: who are they?

- Minister MacDiarmid, MLA Krueger, MLA Lake
- Darren Entwistle – president and CEO of TELUS Corp.
- Mayor of Kamloops Peter Milobar
- BC Hydro representative (TBC)– future client
- Key stakeholders – business and community
- TELUS team members
- Media

KEY MESSAGES:

This data centre is more proof that the BC Jobs Plan is working – it will create 200 jobs during construction and 75 permanent jobs for Kamloops.

Kamloops has a highly skilled workforce and is in a perfect geographic location to become a hub for data centres, along with the family-supporting jobs that come with them.

Over 84,000 British Columbians work in the technology industry and jobs in technology are growing twice as fast as overall employment growth in the province.

Check against delivery

- This is a very exciting day for Interior British Columbia as we stand on the site of the future TELUS data centre in Kamloops.
 - TELUS is investing \$100 million dollars in Kamloops over the next 3 years to build this new Data Centre and to provide wireless and wire-line communications to residents, companies and government.
-
- The data centre will create 200 construction jobs and up to 75 permanent jobs – contributing to the regional economy.
 - Investments made by TELUS in BC are a great example of what the private sector can do for families – from building infrastructure that provides Internet access to rural areas, to creating jobs that support families across B.C.
 - By the end of the year, TELUS will bring Kamloops the most advanced, fastest wireless technology available in the world.
 - Technology is one of sectors in our Jobs Plan we are focusing on because we know that families, schools and businesses need to be connected faster and more reliably to be able to thrive.
 - So it is my government's goal to see every community in BC connected with high-speed Internet in the next 10 years.
-
- Our Families First Agenda is designed to help families in B.C. continue to progress and thrive – and Families First Agenda is built on the foundation of the BC Jobs Plan.

- We are proud to work with companies like TELUS – to see them creating jobs and opportunities for BC families.

Background:

Of the \$100 million investment, \$75 million is dedicated to building the Internet Data Centre and \$25 million is dedicated to providing the wireless and wire-line communications to residents, local companies and government.

TELUS will invest \$3 billion in advanced technology and state-of-the-art facilities over the next three years in British Columbia...

Hiring 800 people this year alone and bringing world's fastest wireless service to 4 million British Columbians.

TELUS will maintain and improve high-speed Internet connections for families and businesses in rural and remote B.C...

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- Acknowledge: Minister Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister Terry Lake, MLA Kevin Krueger, Mayor Milobar and Darren Entwistle
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- So it is my government's goal to see every community in BC is connected with high-speed Internet in the next 10 years.

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Hiring 1300 people this year alone and bringing world's fastest wireless service to 4 million British Columbians.

TELUS will maintain and improve high-speed Internet connections for families and businesses in rural and remote B.C.

**Trade Mission Wrap-up event
Wednesday, May 23, 2012
Speech length: 2 minutes**

Event: what is it?

- Wrap-up Q/A session re Jobs and Trade Mission to Japan, Korea and Philippines
-

Audience: who are they?

- Shell Canada rep
- Imperial Mining rep
- Trade Mission delegates

Key Messages

- Strengthening and expanding our trade with Asia is a key part of our Jobs Plan. Attracting investment to our province means jobs for B.C. families and continued growth for B.C. businesses.
 - Japan and Korea are the world's largest importers of LNG and we have a vast rest LNG resource in B.C. that we want to develop. It is a whole new industry worth billions of dollars and thousands of good-paying jobs.
 - We are expanding our trading relationships into new sectors like digital media, biomass and clean tech, while building upon our traditional sectors like natural resource development, mining and lumber.
-

Check against delivery

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK HOME IN B.C. AGAIN...

But it's been an exciting week of meeting old friends and making new friends in Japan, Korea and the Philippines...

Building on the momentum we started last fall on our first Jobs and Trade Mission, this trip focussed on clean energy, technology and labour mobility.

Strengthening and expanding our trade with Asia is a key part of our Jobs Plan. Attracting investment to our province means jobs for B.C. families and continued growth for B.C. businesses.

Since we released the BC Jobs Plan last fall, B.C. has seen increased exports, more jobs and lower unemployment. But growth doesn't happen by accident, and that's why I went to Asia on the second Jobs and Trade Mission to find new investors, new deals and new markets for B.C. goods.

Japan and Korea are the world's largest importers of liquefied natural gas and we have a vast LNG resource in B.C. that we want to develop. It is a whole new industry worth billions of dollars and thousands of good-paying jobs.

In Japan I met with Mitsubishi, who together with Shell, KOGAS and PetroChina announced the LNG Canada project in Kitimat that will have two processing units, each with the capacity of producing six million tonnes of LNG annually.

That is great news for British Columbia!

We are expanding our trading relationships into new sectors as well, digital media, biomass and clean tech

I was pleased that Nelson Bio Energy and Princeton Co-Generation announced the shipment of 6,000 tonnes of B.C. wood pellets to Korea!

And Aquilini Renewable Energy announced it received approval from the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) to build, operate and manage a \$15-million waste-to-energy gasification plant in the City of Mactan in Cebu Province. That is good B.C. clean energy technology at work in the Philippines.

Investment, growth and ultimately jobs for B.C. families are my top priorities at the end of the day. Our jobs and trade mission was focussed on finding new markets for B.C. goods, new investors for our resources and building upon our successful trading relationships so that our economy continues to grow and we continue to create new, good-paying jobs for British Columbians.

-END-

BC Chamber of Commerce AGM
Friday, May 25, 2012
2:30 to 3:30 p.m. - Penticton
Length: 15 minutes followed by Q&A

Event: What is it?

- The BC Chamber Commerce AGM from May 24th- 26th
- It is also the 60th anniversary of the BC Chamber.
- One of the panels on the Saturday will deal with the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's paper on *The 10 Most Significant Impediments to Business Success in Canada* – some are also on government's agenda (skills shortage, local governments, taxation & regulation)
- Keith Baldrey and Vaugh Palmer will host Cutting Edge from the Ledge prior to keynote
- We will be announcing a BC Chamber initiative

Audience: Who are they?

- About 300 - 325 delegates representing 60 - 65 chambers from across B.C. About 2/3 are volunteers chamber board members and business people/employers, and the balance are paid Chamber staff.
- Media

Key messages:

- My goal is to make life better for families. The best way for government to do that is to create conditions for the private sector to generate jobs.
- B.C. is open for business and we are working with small and medium businesses across the province to create jobs, develop skills and seize opportunities whenever they exist – it's core to the jobs plan.

- Keeping B.C. a safe harbour for investment means maintaining a strong hold on our finances. You can count on our government to keep taxes low and control spending.

Note: On Wednesday, May 23, Minister McRae announced that we are providing B.C. apple and tree fruit growers \$2 million to help replant low-value orchards with high-demand varieties. Announcement was made in Oliver, Vernon and Kelowna with MLAs Slater, Thomson, Stewart, Letnick and Foster.

Note 2: Today we are announcing that we will be providing \$3.1 million for a BC Chamber of Commerce Micro-Business training pilot.

Check against delivery

Acknowledgements / Announcement

- It's great to be here in Penticton. I want to start by congratulating the Vees on winning the RBC Cup.
- Acknowledge MLAs – Norm, Ben and Steve – who represent the fastest growing region of our province.
- Acknowledge Chamber CEO John Winter.
- Congratulations to you and your colleagues on 60 years of leadership.
- The Chamber is an important voice. The business people you represent are the backbone of British Columbia's economy.
- And the policies you bring forward help make sure British Columbia remains the best place in the country to do business.

- The new Auditor General for Local Government - that was an idea that you brought forward.
- I consider the Auditor General one of the signature achievements of our government over the last year and we have **YOU** to thank for that.
- When it comes to our economy that's how my government works with small business... We listen and we take action.
- We've also been listening to your concerns about the need for management training... so you can grow your businesses and hire more people. My government supports that.
- **That's why I'm pleased to announce today that we will be providing \$3.1 million for a BC Chamber of Commerce Micro-Business training pilot.**

- By working with local chambers of commerce across BC, this pilot will provide management training for up to 1,200 business owners who employ less than five people.
 - It's a modest investment but one I know will have a big impact.
-

Small business matters

- In British Columbia, small business is big business:
 - You represent 98 per cent of all our business.
 - You keep more than a million people working.
 - You drive more than 47 per cent of B.C. exports.
 - But I know you do more than that.
 - You help bring families together by supporting and hosting community festivals and events.
 - You help kids thrive by sponsoring the little league baseball and soccer teams.
-

- You create thriving communities.
- I got back into politics for one simple reason: to make life better for families across BC.
- How? To me it starts with the fundamentals. It starts with a strong, competitive economy.
- It starts with low taxes, controlled spending and a plan to balance the books.
- And it starts with listening TO and working WITH small business.
- You are a barometer for B.C.'s economy - when you are doing well, we are all doing well.
- Right here in the Okanagan there's a great story to tell. Over the past ten years this region has seen incredible growth. There is a real entrepreneurial spirit here.

- And by 2020 this region is expected to have more than 110,000 new job openings, nearly 28% of these are expected to be newly created jobs.
 - It's in part being lead by UBCO, where we are now teaching students and training doctors, who want to live and raise families here.
-
- It's due to a revived tourism industry. The word is out that the Okanagan is the Napa Valley of the North.
 - Just look at the incredible increase in the number of and quality of wineries, and the incredible demand for your fruits.
 - And with our agri-foods strategy released last month, we're looking to accelerate this important sector.
 - Here in the Okanagan, we're drawing visitors that return again and again. Some are even building homes here, creating jobs in communities.
-

- You know, 10 years ago, people were fleeing our province. Today, they want to stay.
- 10 years ago, businesses were tied up by red tape and high taxes, and they struggled to grow. Today, we have taxes and red tape under control. Investors are taking notice and businesses are growing

BC Jobs Plan - Progress

- To grow our economy, my government is relentlessly focused on implementing the BC Jobs Plan.
- And it's working:
 - Since February 2011, our economy has seen 57,900 net new jobs-- 19,700 in April alone/
 - Three weeks ago, we issued a permit for Red Chris mine, a \$444-million project that will create 250 jobs

up north.

- Mitsubishi recently gave us a huge vote of confidence by investing \$2.9 Billion in Encana's natural gas operations here in BC.
- We introduced a brand new \$600B Liquid and Natural Gas industry to BC. They are already clearing land for the first Natural Gas line in the north. This new industry will create thousands of jobs- engineers, welders, constructions jobs. I was just at an LNG terminal in Japan. I saw first hand the opportunity and the potential for this new sector.
- And working with Seaspan, we helped to secure the future of shipbuilding in B.C. with an \$8 billion federal contract, creating more than 4,000 jobs over eight years.

BC Jobs Plan – Small Business

- Those are big projects, and I know most people in BC are in small business, but your success goes hand-in-hand.
- When big projects get announced, it's the direct jobs that get all the media coverage.
- But what REALLY drives the economy are the spin-off jobs your businesses create.
- Every time we strengthen a sector like tourism, we are also strengthening small businesses.
 - Let's face it... if you run a restaurant in Tumbler Ridge, you are also in the mining sector, because if the coal sector is strong, you've got diners.

- If you run a car dealership in Prince George, you are part of the forestry sector, because when fallers are working, moms and dads are buying mini vans.
 - And if you're in tourism here in the Okanagan, you are also part of the agriculture sector. Your customers aren't here to drink wine from Ontario.
-
- The BC Jobs Plan builds on the strength of each region to create and protect jobs by pumping new dollars into your communities and your businesses.
 - My government wants to turn potential into opportunity.
 - We won't break your spirit with high taxes and red tape.
 - We are about clearing the hurdles, streamlining approvals and investing in skills training.
 - We can provide investor certainty, expand our trading relationships and keep taxes low so we remain competitive.
-

- And if we do our part, cash registers ring, communities grow and we can afford the services families need, like good health care and education.

BC Jobs Plan – Skills Training

- Over the next 10 years, we expect to create over a million new job openings.
- Jobs in business, in agriculture, forestry, mining, fishing and oil and gas extraction.
- We know we face a skills shortage. So we're working with businesses, industry, municipalities, First Nations and the academic sector to develop solutions.
- We've begun by piloting regional workforce tables in the northwest and northeast, working with trainers, labour and business to look at the kind of training we need. I am committed to have these tables in every region.
- British Columbians need the **right** skills for tomorrow.

BC Jobs Plan – Trade Mission

- Our opportunities here at home are connected to our ability to attract investment from abroad.
- So we're growing markets in China, India, Japan and South Korea, to diversify our export base.
- Good businesses don't put all their eggs in one basket.
- Look at Ontario where they have almost everything riding on sales south of the border.
- We made a conscious decision that that was not in British Columbia's best interests.
- Our exports to the U.S. down to 42 per cent in 2011.
- Our future growth is in ASIA.

- The United States is our neighbour and we will always be great friends. But we want more friends.
- These new relationships will only strengthen our existing friendship with the U.S.

Economy - Staying the course

- The last 10 years has been about getting us back on a firm foundation. People around the world are taking notice of us for all the right reasons.
- I am pro-development, pro-trade, pro-business and pro-growth.
- We need to make sure the world knows BC is open for business, for innovation and for opportunity.
- We have worked hard to develop some amazing advantages. BC has one of the lowest corporate income tax structures in the world.
- We have Triple-A credit rating, because of our

reputation for economic stability.

- If there's one thing I took away from my travels through Asia during our Jobs and Trade Mission, it was just how important BC's economic stability is – I can't count how many times I was told that it is a "unique" asset in North America.
-
- It's that hard-earned reputation for fiscal prudence that has allowed us to remain a safe harbour during these times of global economic chaos.
 - Maintaining confidence in our economy is the only way we can continue to attract job-creating investments.
 - With much of the world in turmoil, international investors are out there looking for places to invest. They are looking for a foothold in North America, and that's B.C.
 - The B.C. economy is picking up steam. To protect our recovery, we will continue to hold the line on spending.
 - We must stay on course because there is too much at
-

risk. We simply can't go back to the days when the best chance a recent grad had to get a job was to move OUT of our beautiful BC, AWAY from their family when opportunity meant leaving BC.

- Europe is just now learning the lessons BC went through in the 1990s. They are paying the same price BC paid for the same policies in the 1990s – lost confidence, lost jobs and families that are afraid for their future.
- Ten years ago, BC turned the page on the policies that are creating economic chaos in much of the world today – and we can never go back.
- We picked ourselves up and started rebuilding ... investing in vital infrastructure, while getting our fiscal house in order.
- Now, when many countries are looking inward and hunkering down, we are reaching out. We stand on the cusp of real economic renewal.

- We are turning the page again to a time of unprecedented opportunity for BC businesses and BC families.
- **B.C. must remain a safe harbour for investment. So you can count on us to keep taxes low and control spending.**

Conclusion

- I know I've spent a lot of time today talking about the economy, but I'll let you in on a secret... I don't measure economic success with dollars and cents.
- I measure economic success by the hope and optimism that strong business communities create:
 - Great schools and safe neighbourhoods...
 - Active sports leagues and local charities...
 - All the things that make your town a community.
- Working together to build a strong economy is how we

will make our children's dreams come true.

- This is a unique moment in history for us to do more than our fair share for the rest of Canada, to grasp BC's opportunity to help build an even greater country.
- I am a proud Canadian and I'm even prouder because BC will be leading Canada into the next decade. We will invite our fellow Canadians to join us and we will tell the world "Canada Starts Here."
- But we can only make that vision a reality if we work together.
- Thank you.

-END-

ERASE Bullying strategy launch
Friday, June 1, 2012
YMCA Surrey 10 a.m.
Speech length: 6 minutes

Event: what is it?

- This will be a high-level announcement of the 10-point strategy called ERASE Bullying , which includes: the training regime, online reporting tool for students, professional development day designated for anti-bullying training, and a safe schools coordinator for every district. ERASE = Expect Respect and a Safe Education

Audience: who are they?

- Minister George Abbott (speaking role)
- Rick Ryan, Surrey School Board Assistant Superintendent (speaking role)
- Minister Cadieux
- MLA Gordon Hogg
- MLA Linda Reid
- MLA Hayer
- Students
- Buffy Cornell - Past student tells own story (speaking role)
- Kevin Cameron, executive director of the Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response
- Laurae McNally, Board Chair, Surrey School District
- Dave Teixeira, co-founder of the Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day Campaign

ACKNOWLEDGE: Minister Abbott, Minister Cadieux,
MLA Hogg, MLA Hayer, MLA Reid

- I have worked towards making sure students are safe at school for a decade.
 - Safe Schools Task Force (started 2002)
 - Pink Shirt Day
 - When I became Premier, I promised that addressing bullying in schools would be a high priority for my government. That's why I am so proud to announce ERASE Bullying, our ten-point strategy that will help ensure every child feels safe, accepted and respected.
- B.C. will lead the nation. This will be the first province to provide consistent training, policies and protocols across all 60 school districts, supported by strong community partnerships among social agencies, police, and schools.
- The strategy is backed by most comprehensive training program in Canada, aimed at 15,000 school district staff, teachers, police and community partners over a five-year period.

INTRODUCE next speaker

Buffy is a 24-year-old full time University student completing her degree in history. Buffy volunteers with Bluewave Foundation educating youth about mental health issues, and aims to eliminate the stigma that surrounds these conditions. Buffy personally dealt with bullying growing up, and is passionate about helping youth who have experienced similar harassment.

Details of the strategy:

ERASE Bullying (Expect Respect And a Safe Education) is a comprehensive strategy that will make British Columbia a nation-wide leader in addressing bullying and harmful behaviours. The 10 elements of the plan will begin in the 2012/13 school year and include:

- New online tools, including a Smartphone app, for kids to report bullying anonymously.
- A five-year, multi-level training program for educators and community partners to help them proactively identify and address threats.
- Dedicated safe school co-ordinators in every school district.
- Stronger codes of conduct for schools.
- Provincial guidelines for threat assessments.
- New online resources for parents.
- Formal protocols to guide and co-ordinate the work of school and community partners.
- A provincial advisory committee with representatives from police, school and social agency partners.
- Focusing one of the existing six provincial teacher professional development days to anti-bullying.
- Anti-bullying and threat assessment training for pre-service teachers.

Provincial Premier's Awards
Monday June 11, 2012
Speech length: 10 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Premier's Provincewide Innovation and Excellence Awards ceremony - culmination of four preceding regional events.
- 21 provincial finalists were shortlisted for review by the Judges Panel and 7 were selected. A nominated employee or team can be a provincial finalist whether they received a regional award or not.
- This is the eighth edition of these awards.
- John Dyble introduces and thanks the Premier, and sets up the awards presentation ceremony.
- Premier gives opening remarks [approx. 15 minutes], reviews open government successes and announces launch of GovtogetherBC website.
- For each category, all nominees will be showcased in a video.
- After the videos for each category, Premier will announce winner, call them to the stage, present award, and pose for photo with recipient(s).
- All the Premier's prompts for the ceremony will be in the envelopes she opens.

Audience: who are they?

2011/12 awards finalists and their families/guests
Premier's Awards judges and adjudicators
John Dyble, Deputy Minister to the Premier
MLAs TBC

Key messages

- **Your ideas make B.C. better. I encourage you to keep meeting the challenge to innovate.**
- **The B.C. Public Service continues to be the best, by developing new programs and finding new ways of doing things.**
- **GovtogetherBC makes it easier for citizens' to get involved in their community. It puts all of government's public engagement initiatives into one place so people can browse and choose topics they want to get involved with.**

Check against delivery

Thank John Dyble for introduction.

ACKNOWLEDGE: ADJUDICATORS' PANEL and
JUDGES' PANEL.

BACKDROP 1: Premier's Awards logo

MINISTERS (TBD)

I am proud to be the premier of the best public service
in Canada.

British Columbians who come to work each day,
committed to new ideas that improve quality of life...

... people who shape and change British Columbia for
the better.

... and who, at times, put their lives on the line to
protect us and keep us safe...

This blend of curiosity, of experience and of bravery helps every family in BC.

There is no nobler calling than to be in the service of our fellow citizens.

It's hard at times. I know. But nothing that's really worth doing is easy.

Long hours, emergencies, major demands on your time...

You don't have to tell me there aren't enough hours in the day to do what needs to be done.

But we press on. And by pressing on, great things can be achieved.

And tonight we honour those achievements and the people behind them.

And we also gather to say a simple, and massive...
THANK YOU.

Not everyone is going to get a trophy tonight. And this may come as pale consolation to many of you... but you are all winners to me!

And if that doesn't help, last call is 9:30 at the cash bar.

A year ago on this stage, I spoke to you about change... about how we were – together – going to open up government.

We talked about how, too often, people think government is doing things to them, instead of with them.

I challenged you – and John was biting down on his table napkin when I said it – to take risks...

... to be creative in bringing about a more open and responsive government...

... to make it easier and more fulfilling for citizens to connect with us.

And I am so proud of the response. Here are just a few examples:

BACKDROP 2: government homepage

- Our government homepage, which is our digital face to citizens, is now so much better... we took citizen cues and made it easier than ever for people to find information about programs and services.

BACKDROP 3: DataBC site

- And every day we release more government data on our DataBC site... this puts our information into the hands of citizens and gives them the power to make their own change...
- And, we're also the first province to release its provincial budget data as open data.

But we didn't just improve web properties over the last year... we started to change our whole approach about how we reach out to the public and get their ideas.

BACKDROP 4: Margaret MacDiarmid photo

This is a good example. Here's Margaret, hard at work as usual...

Here she's holding a twitter town hall on Family Day – hundreds of people took the time to talk to us directly in that conversation.

Overall, we had more than 30,000 votes registered on our Family Day site – and the date we chose was the date people chose.

BACKDROP 5: George Abbot photo

And here's George. He also took to twitter...

... connecting with parents, educators and students about the future of our education system and the fundamental choices ahead...

... this is part of the leading edge engagement his ministry is conducting on the BC Education Plan.

These are some higher-level, marquee efforts and successes... But they don't just happen. Open government starts from the ground up.

BACKDROP 6: Dragon's Den

That's what our version of the *Dragon's Den* is about. I am delighted that a group of program grads are here tonight.

The program's aimed at helping public servants develop business cases that, very often, challenge boundaries for more open communication with citizens.

And sometimes these business cases to engage citizens differently turn into actions.

Like when Don McRae wanted his ministry to better engage British Columbians about buying local foods...

BACKDROP 7: BC Jobs Plan

... so he sent a team of officials to the 'Den' where they learned engagement techniques and prepared themselves to lead one of the most dynamic conversations we've had on our BC Jobs Plan site which you can see behind me now...

So it's been quite a year. We have tried new approaches. And won some important national awards and accolades.

But I feel we are just getting started.

And so allow me to give you a sneak preview of how we're taking BC's leadership a step further.

Backdrop 8: govTogetherBC logo

It's called govTogetherBC and it officially launches tomorrow – and it was an important Throne Speech commitment.

Throughout my travels across BC, people have told me they'd love to get involved in consultations and bring their ideas forward... but they didn't know where to find out about them.

That is what govTogetherBC is all about.

Backdrop 9: mainpage of govTogetherBC

It puts all of government's engagement initiatives into one place so folks can browse and choose the topics they want to get involved in – there are already 18 active engagements up there.

It's up to all of us to really boost that number.

Backdrop 10: community page of govTogetherBC

And the site does more than connect people to government. It connects people to ways they can be of service.

Volunteering... becoming a mentor... recognizing others for their great work... govTogether brings all these opportunities together making it easier for citizens to make a contribution.

I see govTogetherBC as an opportunity to change even more how we work, and how we listen to the ideas out there... and to challenge ourselves to do more and to be better.

I encourage all of you to find out how you can get your work up on the site so we can 'gov together'.

Backdrop 12: Back to Premier's Awards logo

Conclusion

Thank you again for your tireless efforts and fearless dedication to British Columbia.

You're all leaders and true champions on behalf of British Columbians in every region.

I am so excited to see the presentations that are coming up. Tonight really is one of the best things about being your premier!

Keep challenging the status quo. Keep rising to the occasion.

And let's be inspired by the great talent and energy we will witness tonight.

Thank you again.

- END -

Closing remarks

Our public service is a place where talents are recognized and nurtured...

Where personal goals are set and met, and where careers can even change direction.

Tonight's nominees and award recipients reflect the wide range of innovation and excellence throughout the public service.

Over the past year, we've seen how opening up government can lead to positive change.

We've seen British Columbians respond and bring ideas forward...and at same time look to you for leadership to face today's challenges in positive, constructive ways, whether maintaining their lifestyles or adapting to changing times.

Each day all British Columbians benefit— individually and collectively – from your work within the BC Public Service.

All of you have already made a lasting mark on BC.

My personal thanks and congratulations to each of you.

Pillar One Families Agenda Monday, June 11, 2012

Event: what is it?

- Introduction of first pillar of Families First Agenda BC – protecting vulnerable families at Neil Squire Society training centre.

Audience: who are they?

- Minister Cadieux (speaking role)
- Janet Austin, CEO -YWCA Metro Vancouver (operates Vancouver Westside WorkBC Employment Services Centre& involvement in women without status policy (speaking role)
- Dr Birch, Executive Director at Neil Squire Society (speaking role)
- Employment program clients (non speaking roles)

Key Messages

- A good paying, stable and secure job is one of the most important contributions to a healthy, happy and strong family.
 - A key pillar of our government's Family First Agenda is to support vulnerable families.
 - These balanced changes will remove barriers to employment and provide adequate support for those in need. We want to make sure British Columbians can fully participate in our growing economy. We know that the best social assistance program is a good paying job that provides people with dignity, respect and opportunity.
-

Acknowledge:

Minister of Social Development, Hon. Stephanie
Cadieux

Harry Bloy, MLA for Burnaby Lougheed

Richard Lee, MLA for Burnaby North

Janet Austin, CEO of YWCA Metro Vancouver

Dr. Birch, Executive Director of Neil Society

Introduction

I got back into politics to make life better for British Columbian families – to put families first.

And my government has made significant progress in doing so.

We raised the minimum wage.

We created Family Day.

We invest more than \$1 billion across B.C. on early learning and childhood development every year.

We've increased child-care spaces since 2004 to over 99,000.

We've invested \$30 million for the community recreation program for 98 projects throughout the province so that every family has an opportunity to raise healthy kids and have an active lifestyle.

We launched seven pilot projects that target the unique needs of families struggling to get out of poverty because we recognize that every community and every family has distinct needs and resources.

And we will do more, because we believe strong, healthy families are the foundation for strong, stable and safe communities.

Over the coming weeks we will be announcing more ideas and actions to support our commitment to families in B.C., including announcing our Families First Agenda for British Columbia.

It will support every B.C. family, and it will lay out the path our government is taking to strengthen families and the communities they live in.

It will prioritize actions across government that will continue to improve the lives of all B.C. families.

Today, I'm really proud to announce the first of three pillars of the Families First Agenda. This pillar is 'Protecting Vulnerable Families'.

We have a duty to protect and care for B.C.'s most vulnerable citizens and our government takes that duty very seriously.

We know that every family deserves the opportunity to grow, prosper and live in a safe community, so our government is acting to help families succeed.

That's why the policies laid out in this plan are designed to help families in B.C. continue to progress and thrive and become more self sufficient.

We are working to reduce poverty across B.C. in many ways - like providing low-income families with enhanced supports to help them get by.

We have helped families weather the recent recession by increasing opportunities to improve their economic well-being.

This year, more than 95,000 households in this province will benefit from provincial social housing programs and services.

Our government believes that a good-paying, stable and secure job is one of the most important contributions to a healthy, happy and strong family.

Because for some families, that job means the difference between having to worry or not about making sure their child can get a healthy breakfast before they head off to school.

57,700 net new jobs have been created since February 2011, helping families all across B.C.

But there are still too many British Columbians who are not sharing in the prosperity and who need our help.

Improving financial outcomes

We want to strengthen these families and will continue to work hard to find new ways to fight poverty and help the most vulnerable.

Although we believe our income assistance system is one of the best in Canada, we also understand that there is always room for improvement.

We have listened to concerns from clients, families and advocates and agree that many of those concerns are valid.

We are making changes to some of our income and disability assistance policies to help build a stronger foundation for B.C. families.

For instance, we all know that the beginning of the school year means additional expense for families on income assistance, so we are increasing their school start up supplement to \$100 for every child aged 5 to 11, and \$175 for every child 12 and over.

A person on income assistance who can work can now earn up to \$200 a month and not be penalized.

Millions of dollars in federal tax benefits go unclaimed because people don't file taxes.

To make sure families are receiving all tax benefits available to them, our government is introducing mandatory tax filing for income assistance recipients, and we'll relieve clawbacks on income tax benefits and support. We'll also provide help for first-time filers to file their taxes

And we're going to better harmonize our policies for families on income assistance with other Canadian provinces.

Assisting individuals with disabilities

We are also looking our disability assistance program. Although we believe it too is one of the best in Canada we know there is always room for more improvement.

We're increasing trust account limits to help people with disabilities lead more independent lives.

We are increasing the value of assets people on disability assistance can retain. For instance couples and families will be able to retain up to \$10,000 in assets, up from \$5,000.

Earning exemptions for people with disabilities will also increase to \$800 a month for a single person or \$1600 a month for a couple.

Cycle of Income assistance dependency

To help families avoid the cycle of income assistance dependency, we are expanding the intensity of work search requirements.

For new income assistance applicants, this means extending the work search from three to five weeks to strengthen their efforts to find employment.

We are also reinstating earning exemptions for those able to work so they will have a better opportunity to get jobs and skills experience.

This government believes people who can work want to be self-sufficient and contribute to their communities.

We want to make sure British Columbians can fully participate in our growing economy.

These balanced changes will remove barriers to employment and provide adequate support for those in need.

They will help people get back into the workforce, and improve financial situations for vulnerable people and families.

Conclusion

The Families First Agenda is the next step in our work to support families.

It highlights what we have accomplished with the BC Jobs Plan by introducing focused measures to strengthen families.

We'll keep our commitment to being a small government that controls spending – especially during tough economic times, just like any family would. And, we'll build on these actions as we move forward.

There will be a lot of opportunity for public engagement on the Families First Agenda in the coming months, and I invite every British Columbian to share their ideas with us.

Jobs, Families and Open Government are our government's three priorities.

This Families First Agenda, built on the foundation of our Jobs Plan and with opportunities for British Columbians to provide input, reflects all three of those priorities.

Join us in implementing and expanding this agenda, so we can create a better British Columbia for all families.

- END -

Greek Day
Sunday, June 24, 2012
Speech length: 3 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Event to celebrate Greek Heritage and engage with the Greek community of Kitsilano. Premier to speak during the welcoming ceremony.

Audience: who are they?

- MP Joyce Murray
- MLA Colin Hansen
- Mayor Gregor Robertson
- Georgios Ayfantis – Consul General of Greece
- John Craig – SFU Dean of Arts
- Andre Gerolymatos – Chair of Hellenic Studies at SFU
- Patrick North – President of the WBBIA
- Michael Christopoulos – President of Hellenic Canadian Congress
- Peter Capadouca – Chairperson Greek Heritage Month/Greek Day

Key Messages:

- Thank you for your generosity of spirit and all the hard work that goes into Greek Day every year. You contribute so much to our province.
- Over 100,000 people will come to Greek Day this year to find their kefi (spirit).
- Announce \$20,000 contribution to Greek Days

- Thank Peter Zelis for the introduction.
 - Acknowledge the distinguished platform party, incl:
 - Colin Hansen, MLA for Vancouver - Quilchena
 - And my good friend Andre Gerolymatos
 - It's an honour to join the festivities at Greek Day.
-
- And to be a part of the 100, 000 people that celebrate this festival every year.
 - Impressed how this event has grown over the years.
 - Everyone in Vancouver who is looking for their kefi (spirit) will be here this afternoon to celebrate with you.
 - Greek Days is more than a celebration of Greek culture it's a celebration of our province.
 - It's an opportunity to remind everyone what Greek culture means to BC – family, community, service.
 - These are bedrock beliefs you bless us with... beliefs that help define who we are and who we all need to be as British Columbians.
-
- Because strong happy families, build strong communities
 - Proud we are able to support this event with a contribution of \$20,000 to help keep the celebration strong and fun and vibrant.

- Thank-you! And OPA!
-

Families First Agenda Launch
Monday, June 25, 2012
Speech length 10-12 minutes

Event: what is it?

- Introduction of third pillar of Families First Agenda BC – family affordability – at the South Arm Community Centre.
 - Introduction of a student loan repayment assistance program that will provide better supports for people on low incomes having trouble repaying student loans.
-

Audience: who are they?

- Families, parents, seniors, students

Key Messages

The Families First Agenda for B.C. helps strengthen B.C families so that they have the best ability to succeed. We are making targeted investments to support those most in need and will continue to find ways to innovate existing programs, to ensure they are making a difference for B.C. families.

Today, we are inviting British Columbians to become part of the dialogue on how to make a meaningful difference for families on topics such as

affordable child care, encouraging savings for a child's education, and improving crime prevention programs.

The Families First Agenda highlights family-first actions our government has accomplished, outlines initiatives we are currently implementing, and invites dialogue from British Columbians to help shape and frame future policy decisions.

We are introducing a new, two-stage Repayment Assistance Plan to ensure that low-income students –and their families –have extra support when repaying their student loans.

Acknowledgements

- Minister McNeil (emcee)
- Minister Yamamoto
- MP Kerry-Lynne Findlay

Introduction

I re-entered politics for one reason: because I thought I could make life better for BC families. And as Premier, I am committed to putting families first.

Everyday and everything we do is about making that commitment a reality. In every decision we make, we ask ourselves whether we've put families first. We ask whether we're making a difference. We ask what more we can do.

Family can mean a lot of different things. Families are as diverse as our great province, but the thing that unites them is an unshakable commitment to supporting each other.

Strong, happy families are the building blocks of good communities, a thriving province, and a great country.

We know that every family wants opportunities to grow, to prosper and to live in a safe community.

We know that every family wants the chance to succeed, to be self-sufficient and to contribute to a growing and strong economy.

By putting families first, we have made significant progress in making life better and a more affordable for families across BC.

We raised the minimum wage. We created Family Day. We are implementing our Family Law Act on March 18 next year so that a child's well-being comes first in British Columbia.

We also launched seven pilot projects that target the needs of families struggling to get out of poverty, because

we recognize that every community and every family has unique needs and resources.

But we must do more. We have to make sure that every British Columbian can fully participate in our growing economy. And that means looking out for the families that need it most.

Over the last few weeks we've talked about two pillars of our Families First Agenda – 'Supporting Vulnerable Families', and 'Safe Communities, Strong Families'.

We know that the best social assistance program is a good paying job that provides people with dignity, respect and the opportunity to support their families' needs.

That's why we introduced balanced reforms to our income and disability assistance programs as part of our 'Supporting Vulnerable Families' pillar.

Our government is dedicated to making our communities safer and more secure. That's why we committed \$66

million over the next three years to keep 168 positions in our anti-gang police teams as part of the 'Safe Communities, Strong Families' pillar.

Keeping Family Life Affordable

Raising a family is an exciting challenge, but for some families, it can be difficult to tend to things that others take for granted – like packing a healthy lunch every day or putting enough money aside to pay for their child's education.

Today, I'm proud to announce the last of the three pillars of the Families First Agenda – 'Family Affordability'.

Our government is continuing to look at every possible means to help make life more affordable for British Columbians.

We've worked to keep taxes low. Since 2001, provincial personal income taxes for most taxpayers have been

reduced by 37 per cent. More than one million British Columbians no longer pay any B.C. income tax.

We introduced renovation credits and homeowner grant programs that reduce property taxes.

We provide property tax deferral options for qualified people, and renovation grants that help seniors stay in their own homes.

And we are keeping tuition increases capped at 2 per cent, to ensure that our students can build the lives they dream of once they finish school.

Student Loan Repayment

Even though tuition in British Columbia has been Canada's 4th lowest for the last six years, sometimes students need extra support—particularly those with a lower income or who those with family responsibilities that put an extra strain on their budgets.

And as tough as being a student can be, many of us can also relate to how difficult it is to repay student loans as a recent graduate who is new to the work force.

So, as part of the 'Family Affordability' pillar, we're introducing changes that will better support British Columbians with student loans.

On July 1, a new, two-stage plan will ensure that people with a lower-income—and their families—have the support they need when repaying student loans.

The first stage provides payment assistance for the interest portion of the student loan, while the second stage provides payment assistance for the principal portion of a loan.

This new Repayment Assistance Plan is based on the borrower's ability to repay—meaning that income, family size and student loan debt load are accounted for in the eligibility process.

This plan was designed by the federal government with input from B.C. and the other provinces, with the goal of replacing previous programs intended to help students manage their loans.

We are doing this because this common sense approach offers more flexibility; particularly around the income threshold.

That flexibility allows us to help out people who are making a little bit more money but are still struggling with student loans because of their circumstance.

What's also different is that the program, in its second stage, will actually forgive a portion of a borrower's debt. For some people it could actually be all of their debt.

No such program currently exists in B.C. We expect that this new plan will provide support for up to 20,000 people every year.

Public Engagement

Our Families First Agenda is important to the future of B.C. because it will strengthen every family, in every corner of our province. It lays out the path our government is taking to support families and help the communities they live in thrive.

It also identifies important areas where we are looking for more feedback from British Columbians, to ensure that the good ideas families can offer us are translated into actions that meet the needs of citizens.

Our government has a great track record of progressive and innovative policies and programs to help families.

- We instituted a 50 per cent reduction in BC Hydro's proposed rates over three years
- We started all day Kindergarten

- British Columbians can now access assistance with the cost of smoking cessation aids
- And we initiated the B.C. First-Time New Home Buyer's Bonus

But as the needs of families change, so must government's approach.

We've learned that to make a difference, to be meaningful, we have to listen BC's families. That's why we will consult with British Columbians on key elements of the Families First Agenda.

We're encouraging people to tell us what issues matter most to their family. We want to hear ideas about:

- How we can increase access to childcare and make it more affordable.
- How we can make Strong Start, an early learning program for young children, better.

- How we can encourage more saving for education.
 - How we can improve support for families dealing with dementia.
 - And, how we can improve crime prevention programs.
-

My commitment to British Columbians is that if you get involved, you will be heard. We are always ready to listen.

Your input will connect with decision makers, and decision makers will connect back with you, so that you know your feedback hasn't just disappeared into an inbox.

We will report back with a summary of these consultations over the course of the fall and these ideas will inform our future budget priorities.

That is our approach to open government — we are here to listen, to act on good ideas, and to report back on our progress.

Conclusion

The “Families First Agenda for British Columbia” is designed to help B.C. families continue to progress and thrive.

Three pillars are at the heart of the Families First Agenda: Supporting Vulnerable Families; Safe Communities, Strong Families; and Family Affordability.

It highlights what we have already accomplished to strengthen B.C. families, and shows the actions we are taking to build on these initiatives as we move forward.

The challenges that families face are linked to the issues we face together as a society: keeping the cost of government affordable; an aging population; affordable

housing and services; protecting vulnerable families and children; and ensuring safe streets and communities.

So please, join us in implementing, developing and expanding this Families First Agenda.

If we work together, I know we can create a better British Columbia for every family.

One where they have every opportunity to make their dreams come true.

- END -

Event Plan

Event Title: Business Council Energy Conference

Date: June 21, 2012, 11:30am-12:45pm	Media Market: Provincewide
Location: Ballroom C Vancouver Convention Centre West Vancouver	English Media Spokesperson: Premier Christy Clark
	Multicultural Media Spokesperson:

THE EVENT

PROACTIVE EVENT OR INVITATION

- Invitation to provide remarks and then participate in a Premier's Panel discussion to close the Conference [panel is TBC].

EVENT

- The Premier would provide introductory remarks to the panel followed by a moderated Q&A session (questions provided in advance). Panel and Q&As TBC.

GOVERNMENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA FUNDING / PARTNER FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE):

- N/A

WHO'S ORGANIZING?

- Business Council of BC – Cheryl Muir, Director of Communications and Events (604) 696-6582

STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

- Great opportunity to discuss the BC Jobs Plan and LNG/mining industry advancements
- Opportunity to update the public on mining permit backlog reduction
- Good chance for PCC to connect with key business leaders
- POSSIBLE ISSUE: May raise questions about government support for Enbridge/Kinder Morgan twinning?

VENUE DESCRIPTION

- Ballroom C in the Vancouver Convention Centre
- The audience will be seated at round tables

KEY VALIDATORS / STAKEHOLDERS / PARTICIPANTS

- Peter Tertzakian, Chief Energy Economist and Managing Director at ARC Financial Corporation (Keynote speaker)
- Jim Prentice, Senior Executive Vice President and Vice Chairman, CIBC (Guest Speaker)
- Reps from Mitsubishi, Encana and BC Hydro will be present
- Local government reps
- Ellis Ross, Haisla First Nation
- Media invited

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Business, government and energy sector leaders from across Western Canada
- Approx 250 in the audience

VISUAL MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED PICTURE (STILL)

- Premier engaging in deep discussion with B.C.'s business leaders and job creators

DESIRED PICTURE (VIDEO)

- Same

ACTUAL SPEAKING BACKDROP

- Podium to the front right of the stage with simple black curtain and greenery (tbd) behind it and BCBC logo signage on it.
- Three screens on the stage with images of the Premier Christy Clark speaking on the two side screens. The centre screen will have the BCBC logo. If there is a preferred image for the centre screen, the organizers can accommodate this.

WRITTEN MESSAGE(S)

DESIRED SOUNDBITE / KEY NEWS RELEASE SOUNDBITE

"Our government understands that B.C.'s energy future will drive our economic future. That's why we're focused on creating a brand new industry in B.C. in Liquid Natural Gas, reducing the backlog of mining permit applications and opening new doors to trade with Asia."

KEY MESSAGES

- LNG industry including terminals in Kitimat
- Mitsubishi investment
- Mining backlog
- BC Jobs Plan

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook and Twitter message:

We're reducing our permitting backlogs to get mining projects up and running faster. Great progress - we've now reduced this backlog by 79%.

B.C. has the potential to be one of the world's top 5 LNG exporters.

ROLLOUT

COMMUNICATIONS PRODUCTS

- ☒ Media Advisory
- ☒ Speech
- ☒ News Release (*if we also release new numbers in our mining backlog reduction or other news*)
- ☐ Backgrounder(s)
- ☐ Fact Sheet
- ☐ Biographies
- ☐ Talking Points
- ☒ Q&A (*on energy initiatives being undertaken by government as well as pipeline issues*)
- ☐ MLA / Caucus Kit
- ☐ Props (describe)
- ☒ Post-Event Media (Twitter, Facebook)
- ☐ Web Content
- ☐ Photo Release
- ☒ Other (VIDEOGRAPHER)
- ☐ For Information
- ☐ Comment

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Why is LNG development important to B.C.?

- With the emergence of shale gas supply in North America and flat demand, the price of natural gas has dropped significantly. The price of natural gas is much higher in Asia and B.C. is well positioned to supply that market – we have a huge supply of natural gas to meet new demands.
- The growth and diversification of the natural gas sector – specifically liquefied natural gas (LNG) - is essential. Access to new markets will increase the value of B.C.'s natural gas, which will in turn strengthen the B.C.'s natural gas sector and the benefits it creates.

What is the status of B.C.'s LNG projects?

- The LNG Canada project is good news for British Columbia. This is a major project proposal. Shell and their Asian joint venture partners obviously see the potential in building a LNG industry here in B.C.
- With two other LNG operations already planned (Kitimat LNG and Douglas Channel), and more proponents investigating possible development, we are well on our way of reaching our goals of three export facilities by 2020, as stated in our LNG Strategy.

What does LNG mean for investment? Growth?

- From 2013-2022, industry, based on current plans, is projected to invest up to \$48 billion in LNG facilities and pipelines. Also, we expect Gross domestic product impact of \$20 billion a year over 30 years (by 2022).

What does LNG and investment mean for jobs?

- Construction of just three larger LNG facilities and more than 1,500 kilometres of pipeline could result in up to 60,000 person years of employment and up to 1,400 ongoing jobs being created.

What about skills training?

- In order to address skills shortages forecasted in the oil and gas industry, our government is training B.C. workers for these new opportunities. Some jobs that need filling include instrument technicians, LNG train board operators, and reliability engineers, just to name a few. We will ensure the over \$500 million provided annually for labour market training programs is targeted to meet regional and industry demands, including those of the LNG market.

What does LNG mean for government revenue?

- Government will receive incremental revenue from LNG development. Based on higher production volumes alone, at least \$1 billion in incremental royalties could be achieved by 2020 from the first three LNG projects.

How significant can B.C.'s LNG contribution be to the global energy supply moving forward?

- If the LNG industry develops as expected, B.C. could be on the top five LNG exporters in the world – with production of approximately 25 million metric tonnes annually.

What about First Nations?

- Aboriginal people have a crucial role in the BC Jobs Plan and our LNG strategy. First Nations have worked with the B.C. government and industry on LNG plans in Kitimat – they will benefit with jobs and business opportunities.
- By working in partnership with Aboriginal people and local communities, we can reach our goals of new investment and job creation while protecting the environment. The creation of the Aboriginal Business and Investment Council is an example of our commitment to ensuring Aboriginal people across the province are a part of B.C.'s LNG economic future.

What about the impact on the environment?

- Climate change is a global issue. By exporting LNG, world-wide emissions will be lowered as B.C.'s natural gas increasingly substitutes for the use of other higher emission power sources, like coal and diesel, for power generation and transportation in other countries.
- The natural gas industry will remain subject to some of the world's strongest environmental regulations.

June 20, 2012

Office of the Premier

REVISED MEDIA ADVISORY

The site of the Premier Clark's address to the BCBC will be Ballroom C at the Vancouver Convention Centre West.

VANCOUVER –Premier Christy Clark will provide remarks at the Business Council of British Columbia's Powering Canadian Prosperity: BC's Energy Opportunities conference.

Event Date: Thursday, June 21, 2012

Time: 11:35 a.m.

Location:

Vancouver Convention Centre, West, Ballroom C
1055 Canada Place
Vancouver

Dial-in information (listen only):

The Premier is scheduled to begin speaking at 11:55 a.m., but the phone lines will be open at 11:45 a.m.

Vancouver: S 15, S 17

Outside Vancouver: S 15, S 17

Participant Pass Code: S 15, S 17

Contact:

Trevor Halford
Senior Communications Coordinator
Office of the Premier
250 588-0565

Questions and Answers:

If you are changing the clean energy policy, does that not make your 93 per cent target irrelevant?

- No, it is still relevant.
- The change is specifically meant to meet a large electrical demand for LNG projects. The 93 per cent policy will still guide industrial growth outside of these specific LNG projects. Furthermore, renewables will still comprise part of the energy source for LNG.

Can BC Hydro meet the electricity demand of the LNG plants that are anticipated to be developed in British Columbia?

- British Columbia is facing significant growth in its energy demand with anticipated resource development, including both LNG and mining developments.
- In the draft Integrated Resource Plan it recently released, BC Hydro identified this power gap, something that has been evident to government for some time, and something we acknowledged in our LNG strategy. That has driven the policy change to self-sufficiency, informed our work on treatment of natural gas, and shored up our support for IPPs and Site C.
- We must take immediate and focused action.

Can the electricity demand for LNG plants be addressed in the short term?

- B.C. Hydro has enough capacity to deliver power for the first two LNG projects.
- Longer term, we will require a mix of power from BC Hydro's grid and natural gas to address the needs of LNG development.
- We are attacking this challenge from a number of fronts, including changes to self-sufficiency, support for renewable sources of energy, and, now, our policy work to update the clean energy policy for the purpose of LNG development.

What about competitive price?

- We are negotiating with LNG proponents and this is a key element of those discussions. It is informing our policy work, including the changes we made to the self-sufficiency policy.

Is it true, according to the report from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives yesterday, that ratepayers are paying more and more for electricity as the demand from mining, oil and gas companies continues to grow?

- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' new report is incorrect - B.C. families are not subsidizing industry's growing power needs. We share the benefits of our low-cost heritage hydroelectric assets between existing and new customers.

- To help maintain a balance between affordable electricity rates and economic growth, new, large industrial development like LNG contributes to the cost of electricity supply and infrastructure.
- Having electricity ready when and where it's needed is essential to supporting new economic development – whether it's new homes, new mines, the high-tech industry or natural gas companies looking to hook up to our clean electricity grid.
- We have a no subsidy power policy, but in the 90s, the NDP tried to lure four aluminum smelters with subsidized power rates.
- We remain committed to keep rates low for British Columbians.

Aren't you giving preferential treatment to LNG proponents, at the expense of other industry and of residential ratepayers?

- No.
- We have already made a decision on rate increases that protects the interests of residential ratepayers and supports affordability, which is a key goal of our government.
- As for industry, we have continued our work to keep energy rates low. Under the scenario we are now working to implement, a regulation would re-define natural gas specifically for the purposes of liquefying natural gas. This targeted approach will enable us to continue to balance our goals of competitiveness, leadership on climate change, and affordability.

If you are allowing the LNG industry to access cheap power by burning natural gas, why don't you do the same for other industries, and improve their bottom lines as well?

- The government is committed to maintaining leadership on climate change. We said in February and we continue to plan on the basis that renewables will form a significant portion of the power required for this new industry.
- We have an energy gap that must be addressed, and the tools are well within our reach. Renewables will continue to provide the vast majority of British Columbia's power needs, and will keep B.C. at the forefront of climate change leadership. Our natural gas exports will displace dirtier power sources in Asia and will help achieve global GhG reductions.

Does B.C. have the infrastructure in place to power future LNG facilities?

- We are committed to the development and operation of an LNG industry, with sufficient sources of electricity to make it possible.

- BC Hydro and the Province are working with industry to assess power requirements for future LNG projects.
- The BC Douglas Channel LNG operation and Phase One of the Kitimat LNG Project can be served via existing transmission facilities. Phase Two of Kitimat LNG will require some upgrades to existing transmission infrastructure. New infrastructure will be required for any other future projects.
- Investments in critical infrastructure to power future LNG facilities will be balanced with the need to keep rates affordable for the people of British Columbia. Clean energy will be used and, with B.C.'s natural gas supporting energy requirements for liquefaction.

What will new infrastructure and power needs by the LNG industry mean for BC Hydro rate payers?

- Investments in critical infrastructure to power future LNG facilities will be balanced with the need to keep rates affordable for the people of British Columbia.
- Two main initiatives will help us achieve this balance: 1) The Province will require LNG proponents to contribute to power infrastructure; and 2) Government has amended its self-sufficiency policy to mitigate rate increases.
- BC Hydro and the Province are working with the LNG project proponents to assess electricity needs. We are working with industry to find solutions that will protect ratepayers.

You speak about keeping hydro rates affordable – can you be more specific? What types of infrastructure investments are you considering for Hydro and what kind of dollars are we talking about?

- The Province is in discussion with LNG proponents regarding their energy needs, and will be seeking contributions towards infrastructure and energy costs.
- For the smaller Douglas Channel project and the first phase of Kitimat LNG, their power needs can be met with existing infrastructure. The second phase of Kitimat LNG will require transmission upgrades to the existing line between Prince George and Terrace at a cost of about \$200 million.
- The next large LNG project will require significant new infrastructure and energy supplies. That is the gap we are focused on addressing.

How exactly will the Province require LNG proponents to contribute capital to operations (so rates are kept low)?

- The Province is undertaking negotiations with individual proponents, based on their requirements and cost of infrastructure needs. Long term contracts are preferred by proponents, and can be structured to recover costs for infrastructure and energy required by these large new customers.

How can the province make progress on climate action goals with LNG development creating higher GHGs?

- It should be noted: climate change is a global issue. British Columbia's LNG can help. As a transition fuel, British Columbia's natural gas can displace other carbon intensive fuels and will contribute to the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- If B.C. were to export 35 million tonnes of LNG to Asia, replacing coal fired power, it would reduce world-wide greenhouse gas emissions by about 32 million tonnes - the equivalent of avoiding 260,000 direct flights between Vancouver and Toronto.
- Globally, LNG plants are powered using natural gas. B.C. has a unique opportunity to differentiate itself by providing cleanest LNG using clean, renewable power sources. The first two LNG plants in B.C. are poised to use electricity from the provincial grid.
- Natural gas will very likely be required, and can help power reliability as power sources like wind do not offer the same certainty B.C.'s natural gas can to power new growth.
- We are adapting to changing economic and environmental realities. Ultimately, we are moving forward with solutions that will effectively balance our commitments to the environment and, at the same time, support new economic opportunity for British Columbia. This could mean using local, renewable clean energy and natural gas.

How will you meet the GHG targets? Through cap and trade?

- B.C. is moving towards its GHG targets using a variety of tools including the carbon tax, regulations, carbon neutral government programs and business/community/government partnerships,. The province is in the process of reviewing how cap and trade alternatives can best meet our environmental and economic goals.

If you aren't quite prepared to implement cap and trade – how about the carbon tax. Will it be going up or expanded to cover source emissions?

- The carbon tax will rise to \$30 per tonne of greenhouse gas this coming July 1 following the schedule outlined in the 2008 Budget. This is a revenue neutral tax with reductions for families and businesses that is designed to promote carbon reduction in identified sectors. The carbon tax is also being examined for the opportunities it provides to reduce emissions, along with other tools and measures.

Where does BC sit currently in terms of meeting legislated GHG targets? You've said in the past they are aggressive and it'll be a challenge. Don't these plans make the challenge even tougher?

- B.C. will issue a progress report towards emission reduction targets soon. B.C.'s targets are among the most aggressive in North America and, as a result, will be a challenge to achieve. These targets, though, are province-wide. Not all sectors have to make exactly the same reductions.

What changes has the Province made to its electricity self-sufficiency policy and why?

- The Province now requires BC Hydro to plan for average water conditions instead of historically-low water inflow conditions. This means BC Hydro must have, by 2016, enough B.C.-based energy to meet customer demand in an average water year.
- That is a change from requiring BC Hydro to have by 2016 enough B.C.-based energy to meet customer demand even under historically low or "critical water" inflow conditions; and, by 2020, an extra 3,000 gigawatt hour per year of insurance energy. The Province will also propose changes to the Clean Energy Act to eliminate the insurance requirement.
- The government review of BC Hydro, released in August 2011, recommended that government review its electricity self-sufficiency policy to help keep rates affordable for British Columbians.
- These changes are enhancing BC Hydro's ability to optimize its unique and flexible hydro-based system and transmission connections to the western electricity market, creating more opportunity to earn income through short-term trading for the benefit of ratepayers.

How will these changes to B.C.'s electricity self-sufficiency affect LNG development?

- We are committed to the development and operation of an LNG industry, with sufficient sources of electricity to make it possible.
- BC Hydro and the Province are working with industry to assess power requirements for future LNG projects, and to ensure that industry contribute to the costs of infrastructure required to meet their substantial power needs.
- The Province's priorities are to keep electricity rates competitive, continue to deliver reliable power across British Columbia, and to support the new LNG investment set out in our Jobs Plan.
- These changes to electricity self-sufficiency will ensure B.C. families will continue to enjoy some of the lowest electricity rates in North America.

Will this mean we will import dirty coal fired power to meet the requirements of LNG facilities?

- The change to self-sufficiency policy means that in some years we will have surplus to export, and in low water inflow years we will import power, and on average British Columbia will self-sufficient in electricity.
- We are able to do this given the flexibility of our large hydroelectric system and reservoirs which allow BC Hydro to import power when it is most cost effective.
- Going forward, we will procure new supplies based on increases in demand, and continue to ensure that at least 93% of electricity generated in BC is from clean or renewable sources.

Aren't you just giving away your artificial self-sufficiency surplus to Kitimat LNG?

- No. We are clear that we expect the proponents of these large LNG facilities to contribute to the cost of infrastructure and energy required to serve them.
- Discussions with Kitimat LNG in this regard are under way.

Communications Plan – LNG policy

Issue

British Columbia is developing public policy that will support significant private sector investment in B.C.'s newest industry – LNG. While there is a need to work quickly in order to attract international investment, care is being taken to ensure ongoing balance of three goals:

- Keep B.C. competitive in the global LNG market.
- Maintain B.C.'s leadership on climate change and clean energy.
- Keep energy rates affordable for families, communities and industry.

The opportunity for this new industry was recognized as a key element of *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*, and cross-government work has been underway in the months since the release of the plan to address key policy issues. Foremost among these issues is the significant gap between anticipated power supply and production in the province, and the energy-intensive liquefaction process.

This gap has been acknowledged in documents and commentary by the government, including the Premier, since the February release of the LNG strategy. The news release accompanying the release of the LNG strategy was clear:

“As new infrastructure is built and the industry expands, future energy needs will be served by local, clean energy, with B.C.'s natural gas used to support energy reliability if required. Discussions are underway now with LNG proponents to assess power requirements for future projects.”

Current Status

Work has now commenced on the preparation of a regulation that will change B.C.'s clean energy policy so that natural gas can be defined as clean for power generation to support LNG development. The policy and its associated regulation are being carefully prepared to ensure both that LNG's future power needs can be addressed and that renewable sources remain an important component of our overall clean energy mix.

Proposed Approach

On June 21, the BCBC is hosting *Powering Canadian Prosperity: BC's Energy Opportunities* with expected attendance of about 350 including representatives from the world's major energy players.

The Premier will be speaking to the session just before noon. She has an opportunity to talk about B.C.'s opportunity to develop LNG.

There is also an opportunity for the Premier to signal next steps in policy elaboration to support LNG development in B.C. There has been ongoing commentary and debate in B.C. about how the government will address the power gap. This has most recently been enlivened by BC Hydro's community consultation on the Integrated Resource Plan, which illustrates the coming energy gap not

only as a result of potential LNG development but also because of the vast other expected resource development in northern B.C.

There is also an opportunity exploit the untenable position of some of the government's critics, who have variably opposed IPPs, Site C and fracking. These positions create uncertainty amongst international investors, who are focused on the question of affordability and reliable power source as they make decisions among competing jurisdictions for LNG development.

The June 21 event precedes potential publication of a regulation that would re-define natural gas as "clean" for the purposes of liquefying natural gas. Publication of the regulation is not expected until July. Communication of this development, therefore, should be positioned as a next incremental step in the context of the government's previous statements, with more to come.

This policy change follows significant policy elaboration already in place – changing from self-sufficiency to average water and FNCIDA legislation. There is an opportunity demonstrate the focused and steadfast work in elaborating public policy to support development of a new industry for B.C.

Proposed Speaking Points:

- As LNG development is the opportunity of a lifetime for British Columbia, we have an obligation to leverage our strengths to our best strategic advantage.
- We signalled our intentions to consider natural gas as an energy option when we launched our LNG Strategy in February. Given the magnitude of the power requirements, we must adjust our clean energy policy.
- That is why we intend to put in place a new regulation that will change our clean energy policy specifically to support LNG development.
- This important change will facilitate LNG's future power needs and ensure renewable sources remain an important component of our overall clean energy mix.
- Today, B.C. is a clean energy leader and climate change is a global issue. By exporting LNG, B.C. will lower world-wide emissions.